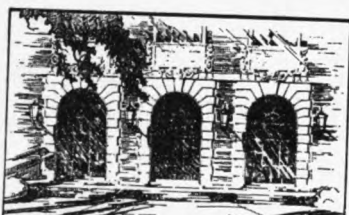

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Sarawak

1947

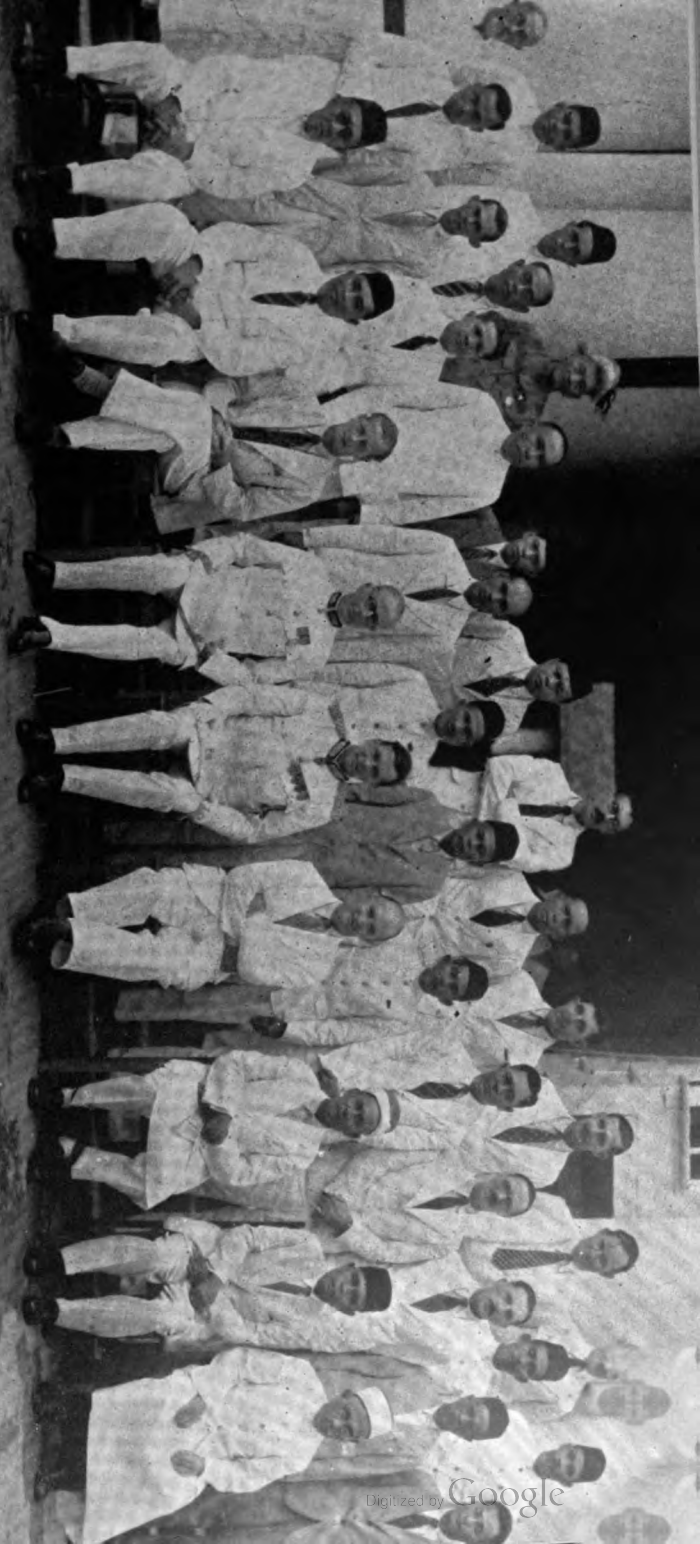


LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS
which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after
suspension in 1940) is being continued with those
relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates
for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with
some additions, be the same as for the previous year
(see list on cover page 3).



The Council Negri.

Photograph by Anna Studio



ANNUAL REPORT
ON
SARAWAK
for the year
1947.

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1949

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PREFACE

This report contains an account of events in Sarawak during 1947.

A report for 1946 was not published as Sarawak did not become a British Colony until the 1st of July, 1946. To give readers some idea of conditions that existed in Sarawak before the war, the effect of the war upon it and the events leading up to the cession of the State to the Crown, a brief account is included as an introduction to Part I of the report.

C. W. DAWSON

Chief Secretary.

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ERRATA

The cover illustration should read
“On the river at Kuching”



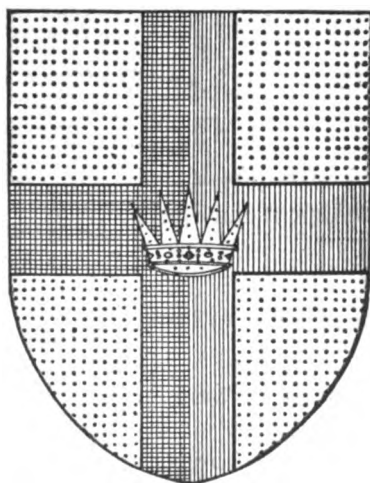


Rapids
The Council Negro

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years ago ...
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Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

PART I

Pre-war Sarawak, the effects of the war and the events leading up to Cession

At the outbreak of the war Sarawak had fought its way back from the doldrums of the great slump to a state of comparative affluence for so small a country. Though it was not until 1941 that revenue was restored to the 1929 level, nevertheless revenue was regularly exceeding expenditure, sums were being placed in reserve to meet future contingencies and social services were being gradually improved, though they still fell far below the country's needs.

From the very beginning of the war the State gave all the assistance possible to the Allied War effort. Donations and loans were made by the Government to the Imperial Exchequer totalling £312,000. Local bodies and members of the public contributed generously to various funds. Local defence forces were raised, river patrols and coast watchers were organised and, at the request of the British Government, an aerodrome was constructed, the cost of which was borne by the State.

Some time before the entry of Japan into the war almost all the European women and children were sent to Australia for safety.

It had long been apparent that the oilfields at Miri might be one of the enemy's objectives and during the two months immediately preceding the outbreak of war with Japan much important machinery was dismantled and removed to Singapore in accordance with a pre-arranged plan.

During the week succeeding the declaration of war by Japan the wells and such installations as had not had their machinery removed were blown up by members of the Sarawak Oilfields staff assisted by a small party of Royal Engineers. These persons were evacuated from Miri in S/S "Lipis" and reached Kuching on 14th December, 1941.

The European Government Officers and General Manager

of the oilfields remained behind to help and advise the population and the former surrendered when the Japanese landed early in the morning of 16th December, 1941.

On 19th December, Kuching was raided at about mid-day by seventeen Japanese planes. On the night of 23rd December, 1941, in consequence of information received to the effect that a Japanese fleet was in passage from Miri towards Kuching, the airfield was blown up and parts of various ships and launches were removed in order to deny their use to the enemy. The 2/15 Punjabi Regiment together with units of the Sarawak Constabulary and Sarawak Rangers were concentrated near the airfield but, on it becoming apparent that the Japanese were landing large forces at Kuching, these troops comprising the Kuching garrison retired on Bau and the Dutch border. A Company was left behind at the seventh mile and fought a delaying action with the Japanese until surrounded on 25th December.

The first Japanese troops arrived in Kuching at about 4 p.m. on 24th December and by noon on Christmas Day several thousand men had been landed and, for all practical purposes, the conquest of Sarawak was complete.

From then on until the liberation in September, 1945 conditions throughout the country deteriorated with gathering momentum.

In the matter of devastation Sarawak may perhaps be considered lucky in comparison with her neighbour North Borneo. Extensive damage was done in the north during the re-occupation by the Australian Forces and by air attack. In the Third Division, particularly in the areas bordering the Rejang river, damage was caused during the guerilla fighting, but in the First and Second Divisions property suffered little damage.

As is usually the case the hardships suffered in the towns during the long period of occupation were generally much more severe than in the village areas. This applied particularly to Kuching where there was a large Japanese garrison, with Military Police playing the role that has brought Japanese occupation forces into contempt and hatred everywhere. It was not until September, 1945, that the Australian Forces landed in Kuching and purged the town. The administration was handed over by them to the "British Military Administration" in November.

The difficulties that faced the Military Administration were serious, lack of trained officers being not the least important, but Sarawak was fortunate in that a few experienced officers of the Sarawak Civil Service were serving in the unit. This gave confidence to the people who were not unnaturally in a state of mind which was ready to be suspicious of anything new. Good progress was made during the short period of Military Administration towards the restoration of normal conditions and the re-establishment of health and other essential services.

In April, 1946, H. H. The Rajah returned and resumed the Government of the country. He was accompanied by a few more of the pre-war European Civil Service, but the serious loss of European personnel by internment, murder and war casualties was a handicap which could not be entirely overcome and which will, in fact, be felt for some time to come.

The rest of the year 1946 brought steady improvement in the life of the country in all its aspects. The foundations of the future were laid and reconstruction, though handicapped by shortage of staff and material, was begun. Health and morale immediately began to improve but the mental and physical deterioration caused by the long enemy occupation was such that some time must elapse before it can be completely overcome. A serious wave of crime, mainly theft and robbery, marked the beginning of the year 1946 but was slowly but surely quelled.

Until November, 1941, relations between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and Sarawak were governed by the Agreement concluded with Rajah Brooke in 1888, which placed Sarawak under the protection of the United Kingdom. This Agreement vested in the British Government the power of decision in any question arising in respect of the right of succession to the Raj, and control of Sarawak's foreign relations. It accorded most-favoured-nation treatment to British subjects, commerce and shipping, and provided that the Rajah and his successors should not make any cession or other alienation of any part of Sarawak territory to any foreign State or subjects without the consent of the British Government. Under this Agreement, His Majesty possessed no jurisdiction in Sarawak, and the formal

powers and rights of control of His Majesty's Government were strictly limited.

In the years between the two World Wars it became increasingly apparent that the Agreement of 1888 was inconsistent with His Majesty's Government's responsibilities for Sarawak, and on several occasions His Majesty's Government proposed inviting the Sarawak Government to consider a revision of the existing Agreement, but in the event on each occasion circumstances necessitated the postponement of a formal approach to the Sarawak authorities.

After the outbreak of the late war the late Lord Moyne, at the time Secretary of State for the Colonies, addressed an official despatch in March, 1941 to the British Agent for Sarawak on this subject. Lord Moyne stated that, after considering his position as the person charged with the responsibility of representing the Protecting Power in regard to Sarawak, he had come to the conclusion that the limits imposed by the Agreement of 1888 were unduly restrictive in present times, and that they prevented the Secretary of State for the Colonies from providing himself either with the requisite information about affairs in Sarawak, or with the necessary authority and influence to help and direct the State administration towards the higher standards which were being achieved in Colonies and Protectorates elsewhere. The British Agent was therefore instructed to seek the consent of the Rajah to the conclusion of a supplementary formal Agreement with His Majesty's Government, providing for the acceptance of a British Resident Adviser. The British Agent for Sarawak accordingly entered into negotiations with the Government of that territory to this end.

In September 1941, whilst these negotiations were in progress, the Rajah enacted a Constitution to mark the Centenary of the rule of the White Rajahs. Previously the internal constitution of the State had been in theory an absolute monarchy (the Constitution Order refers to "Our will and intention to commemorate this centenary year by terminating for ever the era of autocratic rule which has so far characterised our government"). In practice there had come to be associated with the Rajah, as the Supreme Head of the State and the sole legislative and financial authority, various bodies with more or less loosely defined functions. Amongst these were the Supreme Council, established in 1855, and the Council Negri, established in 1867.

The Supreme Council had ceased to hold formal meetings since 1927, and the practice of the Council Negri had been to meet every two or three years to hear an address from the Rajah on the progress of the State since the last meeting. The Constitution of 1941 however vested in the Supreme Council and Council Negri powers approximately equivalent, respectively, to those of the Executive and Legislative Councils of normal colonial constitutions. Generally speaking, the prerogatives of the Rajah were thenceforth to be exercised by the Rajah acting with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, whilst all legislative and budgetary power was vested in the Rajah acting with the advice and consent of the Council Negri.

The negotiations between the Sarawak Government and the British Agent for Sarawak in 1941 resulted in the conclusion in November of that year of a Supplementary Agreement between His Majesty's Government and the Government of Sarawak. This Agreement provided for the appointment of a British Representative whose advice had to be sought and acted upon on all matters affecting Sarawak's foreign relations or the rights and status of foreign nationals, and on all matters of defence. His services were to be available for consultation and he was to be entitled to offer his opinion on matters touching the general administration of the State. He was to have access to state documents and records concerning matters in respect of which his advice was sought, and to have the right to attend, but not to vote, at meetings of the Supreme Council when such matters were being discussed. He was to have the right to attend, but not to vote, at all meetings of the Council Negri. But in the event there was no time to appoint a British Representative under this Agreement before Sarawak was overrun by the Japanese.

When Sarawak was invaded the Rajah was in Australia. His original intention was to continue the administration of Sarawak affairs from Australia, but in April of 1942, with the concurrence of His Majesty's Government, he appointed instead a Sarawak Commission in London, under the Chairmanship of his brother, the Tuan Muda, to be responsible to the Rajah for the control and administration of Sarawak funds, and to safeguard Sarawak's interests. The Commissioners were selected by the Rajah and held their appointments at his pleasure.

In 1943 and 1944 His Majesty's Government again reviewed the question of Anglo-Sarawak relations, as part of their general survey of the future of the British territories in South East Asia for which the Secretary of State for the Colonies is responsible. In the case of Sarawak they concluded that a fresh Agreement was desirable in order that His Majesty's Government should be in a position to discharge its responsibilities in respect of the territory.

In the summer of 1944 the Secretary of State for the Colonies communicated to the Rajah His Majesty's Government's view that the existing Agreements did not sufficiently provide them with the means of discharging to the full their responsibilities for the policies to be followed in Sarawak's future political, social and economic development, and proposed that discussions should be opened with a view to clarifying the lines on which Anglo-Sarawak relations should develop in the post-war period. At the Rajah's suggestion a preliminary discussion was held at the Colonial Office in October, 1944 at which the Rajah was represented by his brother the Tuan Muda.

Later the Rajah informed the Secretary of State that his brother had for reasons of health asked to be relieved of his office as Chairman of the Sarawak Government Commission, and that after consulting his brother and the Commission he had decided to appoint his nephew, the Rajah Muda, to administer the Government with the advice of the Commission, thus constituting a "Provisional Government of Sarawak" with full powers. His Majesty's Government were advised that they should not accord formal recognition to this body, and did not in fact do so. Its members were therefore regarded merely as the Rajah's representatives for the purpose of continuing the discussions already opened with Captain Bertram Brooke.

Discussions were eventually opened with members of the "Provisional Government of Sarawak" during the first half of 1945. It was made clear that it was not the intention of His Majesty's Government to ask the Government of Sarawak to enter into a binding agreement at that stage, but that they wished to undertake the necessary preparatory work to seek a formula which would be acceptable to both sides and could be embodied in a further Agreement to be negotiated with the Sarawak Government after its restoration in the territory.

The talks had not progressed very far when the Rajah announced that, consequent upon the conclusion of hostilities in the Far East and the liberation of Sarawak, he had decided to re-assume his powers and prerogatives under the 1941 Constitution, thus terminating the appointment of his nephew as "Officer Administering the Government" and also the functions of the "Provisional Government" itself, which the Rajah dismissed.

The Rajah did not in fact form a new "government," but soon after informed the Secretary of State that, having given further study to the proposals, he had come to the conclusion that they did not go far enough. He expressed the view that the continuance of the White Raj was no longer wise or expedient, and stated that he had in mind the cession of the territory to His Majesty in the interests of the native inhabitants themselves.

The Rajah expressed the wish to consult certain of his principal native counsellors in regard to his proposal for the future of his territory, through the intermediary of his personal private secretary, before making any definite proposal to His Majesty's Government. Arrangements were accordingly made for his personal private secretary to visit Sarawak, which was then being administered by the Australian military authorities, accompanied by a senior official of the Colonial Service acting as the Secretary of State's observer. These consultations took place in January, 1946. Although they took the form of meetings of the Sarawak State Councils, the Rajah decided that they should nevertheless be regarded only as exploratory discussions. The resolutions passed at those meetings were not therefore gazetted, and were not regarded as constituting in any sense formal or final agreement of the Councils to the Rajah's proposal. With these and other indications of local opinion, however, the Rajah felt able to make a definite proposal for the cession of his territory to the British Crown. His Majesty's Government informed the Rajah that this proposal would be acceptable to themselves, provided it was agreed to by the Sarawak State Councils upon the Rajah's return to the territory, and subject to the necessary legal and constitutional measures being taken.

Subsequently doubts were expressed in the House of Commons as to whether the Sarawak State Councils, as constituted, were sufficiently representative to ensure that the views of the inhabitants of the territory would be properly

reflected in their decisions on this important question. In agreement with the Rajah, therefore, arrangements were made for Lt. Col. D. R. Rees Williams, M.P. (Labour) and Capt. L. D. Gammans, M.P. (Unionist) to visit Sarawak, to undertake an informal but independent enquiry on behalf of His Majesty's Government for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not the Rajah's proposal was broadly acceptable to the native communities as a whole. The Rajah, accompanied by a Senior official of the Colonial Service who had been appointed to act as the British Representative under the 1941 Agreement, and by a Colonial Office Legal Adviser, arrived in the territory to resume his administration from the military authorities on the 15th April, 1946. The two Members of Parliament arrived in Sarawak on the 2nd May. After an initial public meeting in Kuching with representatives of all communities on the 3rd May, the two Members of Parliament set out on tour. Public meetings were held with representatives of the various communities in several centres.

The two Members reported to His Majesty's Government their conclusion that there was sufficient acquiescent or favourable opinion in the country as a whole to justify the question of cession being brought before the Council Negri of Sarawak, and they strongly urged that there should be no postponement of that action. After considering this report His Majesty's Government informed the Rajah that, in view of the conclusion reached by the two Members of Parliament, His Majesty's Government were able to confirm that the cession would be acceptable to them provided the Sarawak Councils passed the necessary legal and constitutional measures.

The Cession Bill was accordingly submitted to the Council Negri on the 15th May, and on the 17th May was passed by 19 votes to 16. The Instrument of Cession was executed by the Rajah and the Supreme Council, and by the British Representative on behalf of His Majesty, in Kuching on the 21st May. His Majesty's Order in Council bringing that Instrument into force as from the 1st July was made on the 26th June. Sarawak thus became a Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

On the 9th May, previous to the Council Negri Meeting in response to a request from the native communities in Sarawak for a statement of His Majesty's Government's

policy in the event of the cession of the territory, supported by a recommendation from the two Members of Parliament that such a statement should be issued, His Majesty's Government authorised the Rajah to make the following official statement on their behalf:—

“In the event of cession Sarawak would become a Colony and would be administered generally on the same lines as other Colonies within the British Empire. It would not form part of the Malayan Union. Sarawak subjects would become British subjects. The cardinal principles set out in the 1941 Constitution are in general in accord with those which govern the administration of other parts of the Colonial Empire. The Constitution of 1941 would be continued in the first place subject to such amendments as are necessitated by cession. But it would be necessary quite soon to introduce other changes (in particular to provide for the Royal Assent to legislation and for His Majesty's power of disallowance) in order to adapt the Constitution to the new status of Sarawak as part of His Majesty's dominions. As a preliminary to that the Governor of Sarawak would be asked to go into the whole constitutional question with the representatives of the communities and other persons concerned on the spot, with a view to recommending what steps should be taken, at the time when these changes are made, to associate the people of Sarawak with its government and administration on a basis as broadly representative as conditions permit. It is hoped in this way to secure the maximum progressive constitutional development. In all legislative and administrative measures the fullest regard would be paid to the religions and existing rights and customs of the various communities. There is no intention of exploiting the people of the country or its resources, and among the most important objectives would be rehabilitation, improvement of social services and communications, and controlled development of trade and resources with a view to raising the standard of living of the inhabitants.”

On 1st July, 1946, His Excellency the Governor-General of Malaya, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, installed Mr. C. W. Dawson as Acting Governor of Sarawak. In his inaugural

address Mr. Dawson made it clear that the change of Government would not, as had been rumoured, be the signal for drastic changes in the customs of the people at large. This statement and the subsequent conduct of public affairs did much to restore confidence.

Sir Charles Noble Arden Clarke, Kt., C.M.G., was installed as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in October, 1946, and on December 2nd addressed a meeting of the Council Negri. This was the first meeting of the Council to be held since Sarawak became a Crown Colony.

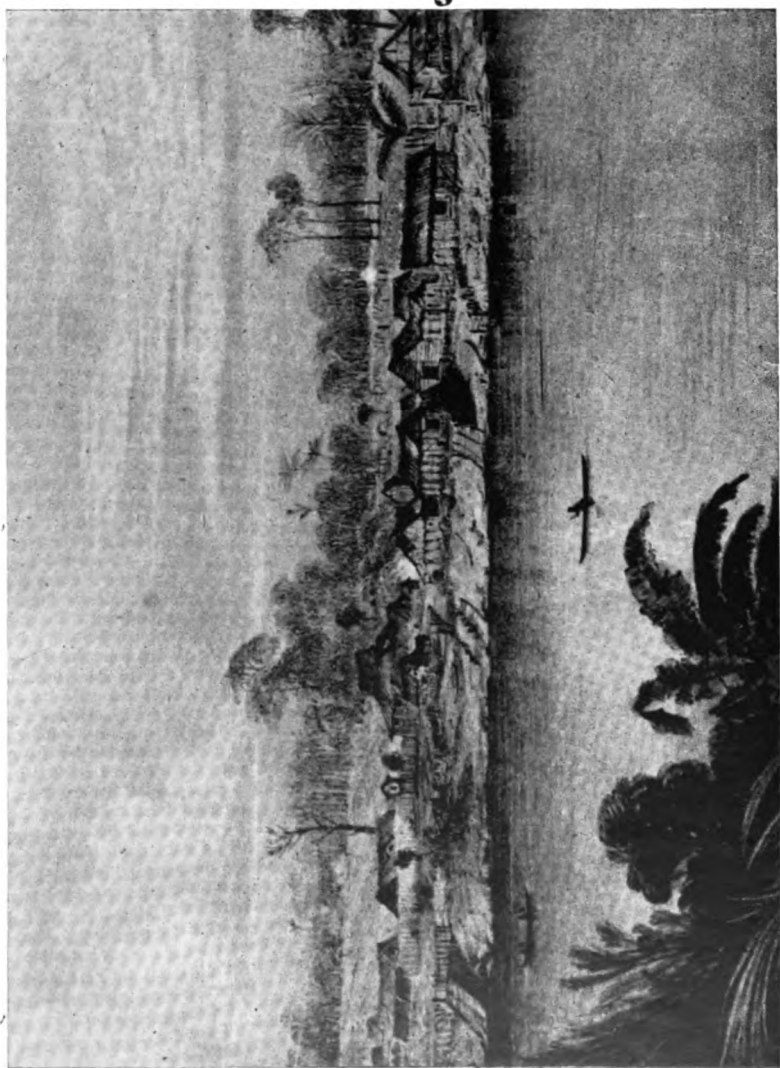
After touching on the past history of the Council, the Governor pointed out that the eventual aim of Colonial policy was self-government and that this would be achieved all the sooner by mutual trust and co-operation between the various races and between the people and their Government. The basis of representation in the Council would be broadened, but changes would only be introduced after full consultation with the people and with the advice and consent of the Council. His Excellency pointed out how timely was the grant of \$5,000,000 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, which would serve to start the task of development. The supply position showed steady improvement, but the need to grow more food, particularly rice, was still paramount.

Mr. C. W. Dawson, as Acting Governor, had visited many of the outstations and the Governor at once started on an extensive programme of tours covering the whole country.

As the whole basis of Brooke Administration had been unceasing personal contact with the people by the Rajah himself and all his administrative officers the reassurance provided by this proof of the intention of the Government to keep in touch with the people had an excellent effect and allayed the fears that the new administration would be impersonal and remote.

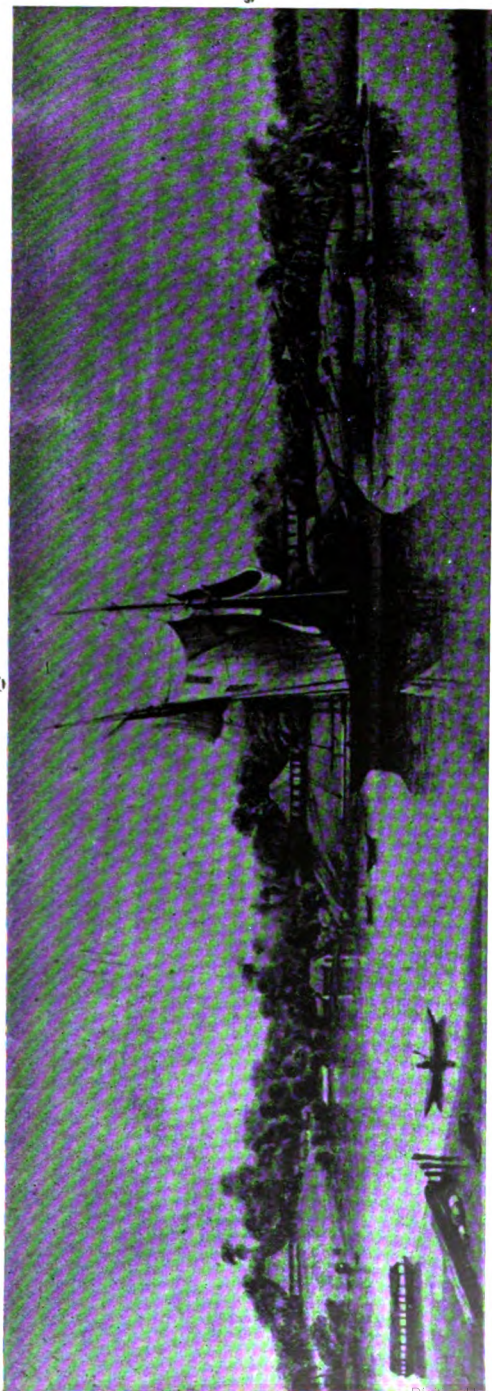
The year 1947

The tasks which faced the Government at the beginning of 1947 were those of rehabilitation and development. Despite the great difficulties imposed by the shortage of equipment and materials and the lack of technical and administrative staff, a great deal has been accomplished. This has only been possible by the untiring efforts of the Government Service, coupled with the earnest desire of the population to



A view of the town of Kuching a hundred years ago.

*Reproduced from a contemporary drawing
by Capt. Bethune, R.N., C.B.*



Kuching as it looked a hundred years ago.

*Reproduced from a contemporary drawing
by L. G. Heath, R.N.*

return to prewar standards and to attain even higher standards in social services.

The Public Works Department carried out a large programme of rehabilitation work, mainly on Government buildings, bridges, roads and wharves. The experience of the past year has shown, however, that there is a limit to the amount of work that can be undertaken while the present conditions of acute shortage obtain.

Progress has been slower than had been hoped but there have been delays in the delivery of equipment and the lack of technical staff has in many cases been a severe handicap.

The supply position improved steadily during the year. The efforts made by the Supply Department combined with the initiative and resource of the trading community have done much to restore trade to its normal channels. Basic foodstuffs (rice, sugar and flour) continued to be imported on Government procurement, as well as large quantities of textiles, but the rest of the trade returned to normal private enterprise and shops in the larger towns were well stocked with consumer goods. The rationing of all commodities with the exception of rice and padi ceased during 1947. Thanks to the good offices of the British Government a supply of guns and ammunition, urgently needed for the protection of crops from pests such as pigs and deer, was obtained.

The position regarding food became easier. Strenuous efforts were made by the producers, stimulated and aided by the Agricultural Department, to grow more food. The acreage of land planted with padi is more extensive than ever before and the harvest, though some damage was caused by the vagaries of the weather and by pests, is regarded as generally satisfactory. In an effort to stimulate production the Government guaranteed a minimum price for the purchase of padi. It is fully realised that every effort is still needed and will continue to be needed for a long time to come to produce all the foodstuff possible and to satisfy the country's needs in rice.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for 1947 was \$175,393,280 as compared with \$56,354,765 for the period April to December, 1946, and \$78,415,599 for the year 1940. Exports exceeded imports by \$30,883,870. The recovery of the Colony from the effects of the occupation, already marked at the beginning of 1947, has steadily con-

tinued with the exception of a short period in the middle of 1947 when the price of rubber fell sharply. Exports of petroleum, rubber and sago increased considerably. Many sawmills are back in production and the extraction of timber from the forests is increasing.

The Colony is in a much better financial position than was anticipated a year ago. When the Budget for 1947 was framed a deficit of \$4,606,486 was expected. At the end of the year the Revised Estimates indicated that there would be a surplus of \$1,005,422. This satisfactory result of the year's working has come about, not through failure to expend the monies voted for essential and social services and for rehabilitation, but through the unexpectedly rapid recovery of trade and commerce and the resultant buoyancy of the Colony's revenues, which are derived mainly from Customs dues.

The revised estimate of revenue is \$12,318,383, an excess of \$5½ million over the original estimate. Approximately two-thirds of the total revenue is derived from Customs Duties of which nearly a half is from the export duty on rubber. The trade and economy of the country still depend far too much on this single commodity, and the aim of the Agricultural Department is to diversify the agriculture of the Colony. Until this is achieved Sarawak would be hard hit by a slump in rubber.

During the year a Conference was held with North Borneo and Brunei in an attempt to reach, so far as individual economic and trade conditions permitted, a unified tariff for the three territories. The new tariffs were introduced into Sarawak on the 8th of December, 1947, and should produce a substantial increase in revenue. This additional revenue will be needed to meet the increasing demands for improved social services which are deficient and not in accord with modern standards.

In the political field steps were taken to associate the people of Sarawak more closely with their Government and give them a greater say in the management of their own and their country's affairs. This question engaged the close attention of the Government throughout the year. As a result of many discussions and prolonged consideration a

scheme has been drawn up for the development of local Government in Sarawak. As a first step on the long road that leads towards self-Government, District and Divisional Advisory Councils have been established on a representative basis in order to provide a recognised and ready means of consulting the people and enabling them through their representatives to express their views to Government on all matters affecting their welfare and progress. Five Local Authorities each with its own Treasury were established during the year.

Owing to the diversity of races in Sarawak and the different stages of development which they have reached, it is necessary to proceed cautiously in the early stages. If these initial experiments are successful and prove generally acceptable to the people, more Local Authorities will be established. Eventually the scheme will provide a net-work of elected and racially representative local authorities in each District vested by statute with limited executive and financial powers. These will elect representatives to an inter-racial District Advisory Council. From the District Advisory Council members will be elected to the Divisional Council, which in its turn will act as an "electoral college" for the election of unofficial members to the central legislature, the Council Negri, until such time as standards of education and living justify a wider extension of the franchise.

There has been a considerable amount of activity during the year on the part of that section of the Malay Community, centred for the most part in Kuching, who opposed the cession of Sarawak to His Majesty's Government and are still unable to reconcile themselves to the change. Much propaganda has been put about during the year in an attempt to persuade the people against cession but the bulk of the population remains unaffected.

Steps were taken during the year to strengthen the Civil Service. Additional Administrative Officers were appointed; the Staff of the Education Department has been strengthened by the appointment of an Education Adviser, who acts as Director, and of an Education Officer; an officer of the Colonial Medical Service has been appointed Director of Medical and Health Services and assumed duties in July; an experienced police officer from Malaya has been appointed as Commissioner of the Sarawak Constabulary. The shortage

of qualified engineers and surveyors, which persisted up to the end of the year, has delayed action on development schemes. Progress in education has also been held up by the lack of qualified teachers.

A Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Harry Trusted was charged with the task of investigating the question of salaries and other conditions of service of all Government employees in the three Borneo territories. The Commission spent some time in Sarawak studying the problem and hearing evidence. It has completed its task and sent in its report. The recommendations made in the report are receiving consideration and it is hoped that those improvements which it is found practicable to adopt will be implemented shortly.

In the field of future development the first task is to draw up a comprehensive plan related to Sarawak's needs and potentialities, which will cover all objectives of development and welfare expenditure considered to be necessary and desirable over a period of ten years. The scope of this plan will not be limited by the exact amount of the resources estimated to be available; its proposals will be graded in accordance with their relative priority so that the money ultimately found to be available from all sources, that is from revenue and from loans as well as from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, can be devoted to those developments which are agreed to be of the highest importance.

The chief obstacles in the way of formulating and carrying out a balanced and ordered programme of development for Sarawak are the lack of basic information, the lack of staff and the lack of money. In order that an early start might be made, however, with development and welfare work a preliminary short-term plan has been drawn up, which should provide the basic information required before long-term planning can begin, and which should at the same time meet the most urgent of the Colony's needs in a manner which will fit in with the long-term comprehensive plan to be framed subsequently.

Sarawak has had the benefit of visits from a number of experts during the year who have studied local conditions and given practical and helpful advice. They have come from the Colonial Office, the staff of the Governor-General, that

of the Special Commissioner for South East Asia, from the British Council, the United Nations Secretariat and elsewhere. It is in large part due to their assistance that it has been possible to make an early start on development schemes. Sarawak has good reason to be grateful for the personal study of local conditions made by the Secretary of State's advisers, for the sympathetic interest taken in its affairs by the Colonial Office and for the prompt practical and generous measure of assistance it has received not only from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund but in the matter of urgently needed supplies of all kinds and in many other ways.

A population Census, the first of its kind in Sarawak, was successfully carried out in 1947 with financial assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds. The date of final enumeration was the 26th of November 1947 but the statistical analysis and final report will not be ready until late in 1948.

A scheme has also been approved for a survey of the fisheries of Sarawak over a period of two years. The survey is a necessary preliminary to the preparation of plans to help the local fishing industry. The Fishery Survey Officer took a course of training in certain technical aspects of the scheme during 1947 and will commence his work early in 1948.

An aerial topographical survey of certain selected areas was undertaken during 1947. It will be some time before new maps of these areas can be produced but the photographs taken have already proved of considerable assistance to the Lands and Surveys, the Agricultural and Forestry Departments and to those concerned with the development of the mineral resources of the Colony.

A team of experts toured the country investigating all known coal deposits. Coal measures are known to exist, some were in fact exploited in prewar years, but further investigations of their quality, extent and accessibility, was considered to be necessary. It is feared that the coal though of good quality may prove to be too friable for commercial use.

An Admiralty survey was also carried out during the year by H.M.S. Sharpshooter, of the Batang Lupar from its mouth to Lingga and of the Rejang river as far as Sibul. As a direct result of this a cargo ship of 9,000 tons was enabled to enter the Rejang in August and cleared for Australia with a cargo of logs and sawn timber.

Dr. Edmund Leach visited Sarawak from June to October, 1947. During this period he travelled extensively throughout the country making plans for a comprehensive Socio-Economic Survey which will follow later. This survey is of importance in order to ensure that the measures now being taken to improve living conditions do not conflict with, but follow the lines best suited to, the stage of development which the people have reached and to their customary ways of life and thought.

After the liberation of the country from the Japanese at first the Department of Agriculture was grouped with the Land, Survey and Forest Departments and it was not until the 1st of January, 1947, that it again became a separate department. The policy of the Department is that Sarawak's agriculture should be developed for the benefit of the native cultivators themselves; that large specialised plantations should not be allowed to oust the small native farmer working on his own land on a suitable mixed system of farming; that the farmer should grow sufficient food for himself and his family as a guarantee against difficult times and should also have produce for sale. The aim of the Department is also to improve the efficiency of the rubber industry and at the same time make vigorous search for alternative cash crops.

Little agricultural experimental work had been conducted in Sarawak in the past and practically no information had been recorded regarding the agricultural land of the country. The work of the Department during the year has, therefore, been directed in a great measure to the establishment of demonstration and experimental plots and the collection of information by means of a soil survey. Liaison between the Department and influential members of local communities interested in the production, processing and export of rural products has been maintained by an Agricultural Development Board.

Two schemes have been approved for agriculture under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. One of an agricultural survey and the other for rubber development. Preliminary expenditure on a scheme for mechanical cultivation experiments has also been approved.

Good progress has been made on the first stage of the Agricultural Soil Survey scheme which will collate such in-

formation as does exist on a 4 mile to 1 inch outline map. The next stage of the scheme will be to examine in detail the existing and potential wet padi land of the country with a view to possible development for intensive padi production. This stage has been started in some parts of the country.

Under the Rubber Development Scheme, the object of which is to provide the small holder with high yielding planting material for both replanting and new planting one budwood nursery has been established with budwood from a reliable source in North Borneo. Short term demonstrations of sound methods are being arranged on mature rubber, and for the purpose of long term demonstrations small areas will be planted with high yielding material.

The possibility of employing mechanical means to assist in the cultivation of wet padi is being investigated by practical experiments with machines adapted to suit local conditions.

Demonstration plots form the basis of schemes to improve the cultivators' technique. Plots have been operated in season and have on the whole been successful and have aroused considerable interest.

Three Agricultural Stations have been maintained during the year on which investigations in the development of crops other than padi have been carried out. Preliminary observations have also been made in the use of fertilisers and manures.

There is a widespread demand for education throughout the Colony, especially among the large indigenous non-Mohammedan section of the population for whom educational facilities hitherto have been almost entirely lacking. The need for primary schools is obvious and pressing but the teachers are not available.

Free grants totalling nearly \$1 million were approved towards the end of the year under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act to carry out two important educational schemes, namely, the establishment of a teacher training institution and secondary school, and of a long-house or Rural Improvement School for Iban adults.

The teacher training centre and a secondary school are the Colony's most urgent educational requirements, but in view of the expense and delay that would be involved in

the construction of permanent buildings in the present time of shortage of materials and of technicians, both needs are to be met under a single scheme at Batu Lintang, a hutted camp originally constructed as a military camp and used later by the Japanese as an internment camp. This will meet immediate needs at a comparatively low cost and admit of replacement in due course by permanent establishments on a smaller or larger scale when the long-term requirements of the Colony become clearer.

The buildings are now being reconstructed and modified and it is hoped that the institution will be opened in the middle of 1948. Accommodation will be provided for 200 secondary pupils and 100 student teachers, who will have separate dormitories and class rooms.

The Rural Improvement School scheme has been designed to meet the special needs of the large Iban-speaking population, living in the interior of the country, whose educational welfare has in the past been almost completely neglected. If their living conditions are to be improved, it is not sufficient merely to provide primary schools for the children: the adults too must be taught to read and write in their own vernacular, and be educated in elementary hygiene, infant welfare and in improved methods of agriculture and animal husbandry. The present scheme proposes to tackle this problem by selecting 30 young married couples from various long-houses and giving them a two-year course in these practical matters. They will then return to their own communities to spread the new ideas.

The Medical and Health Services have also benefited under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act. A free grant of \$670,000 is to be used to provide and maintain, over a period of five years, 18 new mobile and static dispensaries, almost as many as there are in the country at present. Most will be established in those parts of Sarawak which at present lack any form of medical service.

Owing to lack of staff only two dispensaries will be established at once. The training of staff to man and work the remainder is being undertaken. The full scheme will not be achieved until the third year.

It is realised that the medical facilities of the country are sadly inadequate and that general sanitation is very much

below standard. It is probably in this direction that the country suffered most as a result of the war and enemy occupation. There is much leeway to be made up and this will make heavy demands on trained staff and the financial resources of the Colony. Improvements will not be achieved in a short time and will not be generally effective until the educational standard of the people has been raised.

The year has been one of considerable activity but a lot remains to be done. As soon as the immediate difficulties due to the lack of trained staff are overcome, a much greater proportion of the Colony's revenues will be devoted to the steady improvement of the health and education services.

A fuller account of the principal events in Sarawak during 1947 is set out in the following pages.

PART II

CHAPTER 1

Population

In 1939 enumeration of the population of Sarawak was carried out as an emergency measure to introduce a food rationing scheme. The terms of reference for this enumeration were dictated by the demands of the rationing scheme with the result that it was little more than a reasonably accurate count of the people by race. The limited value of this enumeration as a reliable basis for investigation and development had completely disappeared by 1947, not only because of the absence of vital statistics and migration figures during the period of Japanese occupation, but also because considerable movements of population had taken place within the country since 1939. It was therefore decided to conduct a full-scale population census during 1947.

The census was successfully carried out, but the statistical analysis and final report will not be published until late in 1948. The figures quoted below, obtained from the census, are provisional and may vary slightly, but not appreciably, from the final figures to be published in the report.

For the purposes of the Census the Administrative Districts were accepted as the units of enumeration and comparison with 1939. The following table indicates the population enumerated in 1947 and the change which has taken place in numbers since 1939:—

<i>Administrative District or Municipal Area.</i>	<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
Lundu	... 722	9,159	+ 674	+ 8%
Bau	... 335	18,715	- 1,268	- 6%
Serian	... 1,473	47,845	+ 10,983	+ 30%
Kuching Rural	... 913	58,564	+ 8,794	+ 18%
Kuching Municipal	... 5	37,949	+ 3,485	+ 10%
<i>First Division</i>	... 3,448	172,232	+ 22,668	+ 15%

<i>Administrative District or Municipal Area.</i>	<i>Area in square miles.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
Simanggang ...	1,736	31,530	+ 2,384	+ 8%
Lubok Antu ...	910	15,264	+ 1,316	+ 9%
Saribas ...	720	24,606	+ 1,457	+ 6%
Kalaka ...	662	21,262	+ 1,580	+ 8%
<i>Second Division</i> ...	4,028	92,662	+ 6,737	+ 8%
Lower Rajang ...	1,835	52,456	+ 4,798	+ 10%
Sibu Rural ...	1,279	40,098	+ 7,753	+ 18%
Sibu Municipal ...	2	9,988		
Kanowit ...	1,592	26,568	+ 3,448	+ 15%
Kapit ...	15,177	32,259	+ 4,187	+ 15%
Oya-Dalat ...	1,020	18,055	+ 1,616	+ 14%
Mukah ...	1,933	21,566	+ 1,661	+ 8%
<i>Third Division</i> ...	22,838	195,980	+ 23,461	+ 14%
Bintulu ...	4,573	21,222	+ 2,705	+ 15%
Miri Rural ...	1,979	11,099	+ 242	+ 1%
Miri Municipal ...	2	10,951		
Baram ...	7,075	20,335	+ 826	+ 4%
<i>Fourth Division</i> ...	18,629	63,607	+ 8,773	+ 6%
Limbang ...	2,129	12,063	- 58	- .5%
Lawas ...	999	9,817	- 805	- 8%
<i>Fifth Division</i> ...	3,128	21,880	- 863	- 4%
SARAWAK ...	47,071	546,361	+ 55,776	+ 11%

Although no statistics of migration are available for the period between the 1939 enumeration and the census of 1947, it is believed that immigration has not accounted for more than 1% of the total increase.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminated "tribes" comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The following table indicates the relative importance in numbers of these indigenous people :—

<i>Cultural Group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
Sea Dayak ...	190,387	+ 22,687	+ 13%
Malay ...	97,540	+ 3,612	+ 3%
Melanau ...	35,553		
Land Dayak ...	42,195	+ 5,232	+ 14%
Others * ...	29,754	+ 2,222	+ 8%
Total Indigenous, Census 1947 ...	395,429	+ 33,753	+ 9%

* Includes 1,666 nomadic Punans.

The following table indicates the numerical predominance of the Chinese among the non-indigenous population :—

<i>Cultural Group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Change since 1939.</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1939.</i>
European (including Eurasian) ...	692	— 12	— 2%
Chinese ...	145,119	+ 21,493	+ 17%
Other Asiatic (Arab, Javanese, Indian, Bugis, etc.) ...	5,121	+ 542	+ 12%
Total Non-Indigenous, Census 1947 ...	150,932	+ 22,023	+ 17%

The following table combines all the above-mentioned cultural groups to show the comparative numerical importance of each group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural Group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of the Total Population.</i>
European ...	692	0.1%
Malay ...	97,540	17.8%
Melanau ...	35,553	6.5%
Sea Dayak ...	190,387	34.9%
Land Dayak ...	42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous ...	29,754	5.5%
Chinese ...	145,119	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous Asiatic ...	5,121	0.9%
	546,361.	100.0%

Vital Statistics

The system of registration of births and deaths operating in Sarawak in 1941 was continued in 1947. It cannot be said, however, that this system is effective and accurate except in the larger towns, mainly because of an inadequacy

of staff but also because of weaknesses in the existing legislation. Steps are being taken to revise the law and to provide staff adequate to effect registration throughout the Colony.

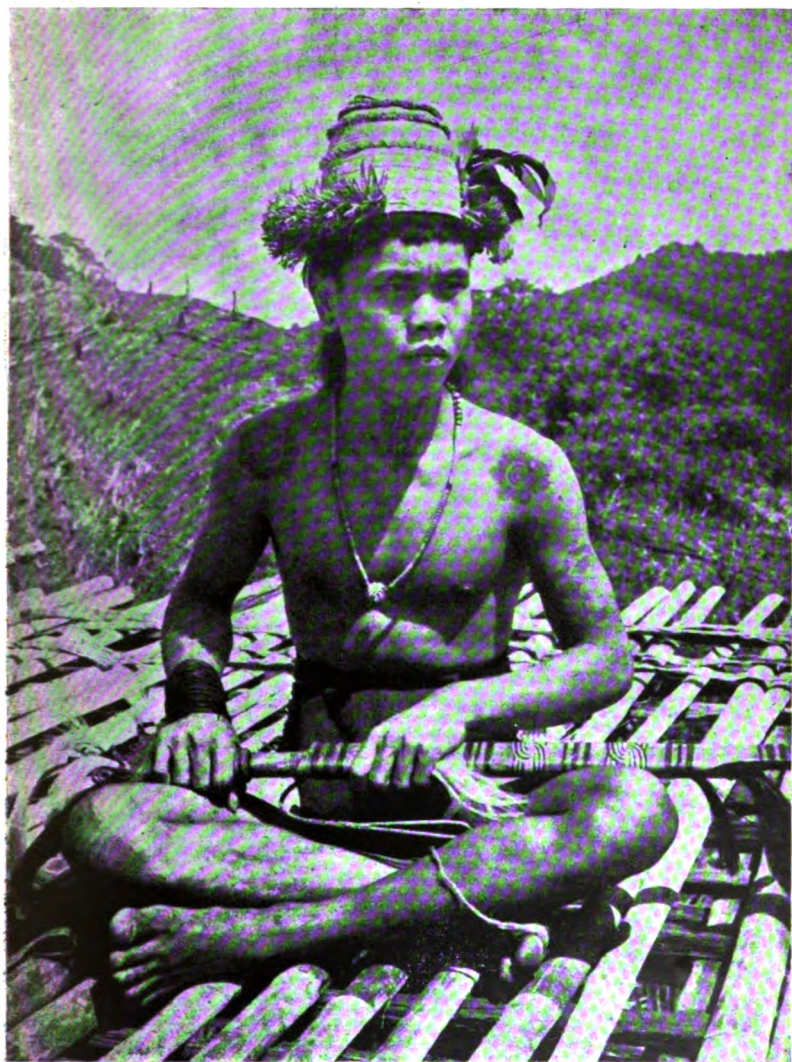
The boundary between Sarawak and Dutch Borneo generally follows a long and irregular range of mountains which forms the spine of the Island of Borneo. This mountainous stretch of country is sparsely populated and movement between the two territories is slight being confined to a few traders and some of the local inhabitants who make irregular excursions on hunting and other expeditions. It has not yet been possible fully to record this movement. These remarks apply also to the shorter boundary between Sarawak and North Borneo.

The State of Brunei, on the other hand, is bounded by Sarawak territory on all sides except the sea. There is a very definite and constant movement of people between the two territories, particularly between Kuala Belait in Brunei and Miri in Sarawak, facilitated by a connecting road built by the British Malayan Petroleum Company Limited, which operates in Brunei and in Sarawak through its subsidiary the Sarawak Oilfields, Limited.

Singapore vessels call at Kuching in the First Division; Sarikei, Binatang and Sibu in the Third; and Miri in the Fourth. Registration of migration was recommenced in July 1947 for these three Divisions and is as follows:—

Migration to and from Singapore—July to December inclusive

Race.	First Div.		Third Div.		Fourth Div.		Total for Sarawak.	
	Immig.	Emig.	Immig.	Emig.	Immig.	Emig.	Immig.	Emig.
European	104	67	14	10	49	62	167	139
Malay	71	73	10	9	17	—	98	82
Sea Dayak	24	22	—	—	5	—	29	22
Chinese	1,657	1,558	524	662	409	239	2,590	2,459
Other Asiatic (Non-Indigenous)	78	83	1	17	17	14	96	114
TOTAL	1,934	1,803	549	698	497	315	2,980	2,816



Fenghulu Jingtut, Sungei Balleh, near Kapit.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Movement of Labour

There has been a constant interchange of labour between the oilfields at Miri and Seria (in Brunei) but no statistics are available. Elsewhere the movement of labour has been negligible.

CHAPTER II

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Sea and Land Dyaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers, employing primitive methods and engaged mainly in planting rice on hillides which are bounded by felling and burning, for the purpose. This is a wasteful method which has done much damage to the country. A remedy is at present being sought. The vast majority of these people is rubber and it is rare to find one who does not own a few trees. Fishing and hunting supply the balance of their needs. The Melanese are a coastal tribe and are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing. They do not plant a great deal of rice, and depend to a certain extent on sago as did many of the indigenous tribes in the past.

The trade of the country is except for a few European mercantile firms in the hands of the Chinese. Shops in the larger towns such as Kuching and Sibong have their branches in the smaller townships, and from these radiate out into the hinterland by means of itinerant traders and trading boats. Many of the shopkeepers are closely connected with, and in some cases financed by, bigger dealers in Singapore.

The Chinese are to a large extent rubber planters. They are in complete control of the gold mining industry, and have considerable interests in and a large degree of control of the sago industry. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills, rubber plantations, and small local factories (mostly Chinese) for opium, matches, pottery, bricks, vermifacili, and a variety of other goods.

The Chinese are the largest employers of labour in the Sarawak. They employ a total of approximately 1,500 Chinese, Malay and mixed-blood and unskilled workmen. Some production of rubber is done by the whole of the land of the field of the Chinese. In the few small towns, Chinese are engaged in various occupations, including carpentry, blacksmithing and

CHAPTER 2

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organization

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Sea and Land Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers, employing primitive methods and engaged mainly in planting rice on hillsides which are denuded of their forest, by felling and burning, for the purpose. This is a wasteful method which has done much damage to the country. A remedy is at present being sought. The cash crop of the large majority of these people is rubber and it is rare to find one who does not own a few trees. Fishing and hunting supply the balance of their needs. The Melanaus are a coastal tribe and are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing. They do not plant a great deal of rice, and depend to a certain extent on sago as did many of the indigenous tribes in the past.

The trade of the country is except for a few European importing firms in the hands of the Chinese. Shops in the bigger towns such as Kuching and Sibu have their branches in the smaller townships, and from these radiate out into the hinterland by means of itinerant traders and trading boats. Many of the shopkeepers are closely connected with, and in some cases financed by, bigger dealers in Singapore.

The Chinese are to a large extent rubber planters. They are in complete control of the gold mining industry, and have considerable interests in and a large degree of control of the sago industry. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating, and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli, and a variety of other products.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Limited which employs a total of approximately 1,800 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, saw-mills, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment. In the few small towns, Chinese are employed in small workshops as carpenters, blacksmiths and



A Malay woman engaged in weaving.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison



Chinese boy tapping rubber, Sarikei.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

motor mechanics, and as barbers, tailors and general shop employees.

No recent or reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available. Hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

For some years the Secretary for Chinese Affairs has officiated as "Protector of Labour", and has operated through a Labour Ordinance. District Officers are Deputy Protectors of Labour. A Labour Adviser for the three contiguous territories of Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei was appointed in 1947, but had not yet arrived at the end of the year.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Order and the Labour Conventions Order. Provisions of the former give protection in matters of health conditions, the truck, system, dismissal without notice, and agreements to labour, and provide for inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work, or task. The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or system of reporting on inspection, but District Officers regularly visit all important industrial undertakings in their districts and take such action as they think appropriate.

Trade Union Legislation was enacted in 1947, and will shortly come into force. It provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Trade Unions, safeguards their funds in the conventional manner and gives the customary protection to the Unions and their officials against being prosecuted or sued for conspiracy or tort in respect of acts done in the course of a trade dispute.

Factory legislation is dealt with under the Dangerous Machinery Order, but there is at present no legislation dealing with compensation for accidents, or sickness and old age benefits.

CHAPTER 3

Public Finance and Taxation

Revenue and Expenditure

Comparative figures of revenue and expenditure for the nine months to 31st December, 1946, the original Estimates for 1947 and the revised Estimates based on information available at the 1st of March, 1948, are given below :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expend- iture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1946 (9 months)	5,569,690	6,046,991	—	477,301
Original Estimates, 1947	6,490,870	11,097,356	—	4,606,486
Revised Estimates, 1947	12,318,383	11,312,961	1,005,422	—

It will be observed that when the Budget for 1947 was framed a deficit of \$4,606,486 was anticipated, whereas a surplus of \$1,005,422 is now seen. The revised estimate of expenditure does not differ appreciably from the original estimate and the surplus is due entirely to an increase in revenue, which is expected to exceed the original estimate by \$5,827,513.

Revenue

The main heads of revenue are as follows :—

	<i>Actual 1946. (9 months)</i>	<i>Original Estimate 1947.</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1947.</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs	3,501,459	4,224,000	8,649,795
Licences, taxes, etc. ...	400,322	463,000	711,070
Fees of Court, etc. ...	304,323	115,000	609,929
Land	133,566	350,600	327,505
Posts and Telegraphs ...	256,782	167,000	484,166
Revenue from Government			
Property	317,655	134,400	69,684
Interest	163,970	290,000	370,000

When the original Estimates were prepared there were no reliable statistics available to assist in the framing of estimates. The increase in yield from Customs duties, which accounts for the greater part of the increased revenue, is

attributable mainly to the unexpectedly rapid recovery of sago and rubber from the effects of the Japanese occupation, coupled with an increase in duties on liquor and tobacco.

Expenditure

The main heads of expenditure are as follows :—

	Actual 1946. (9 months)	Original Estimates 1947.	Revised Estimates 1947.
	\$	\$	\$
H. H. the Rajah's Dependents	165,057	140,600	125,821
Agriculture	65,485	217,176	179,026
Constabulary	379,176	597,044	636,477
Education	145,904	275,955	233,320
Lands and Surveys	158,194	349,830	248,642
Marine	86,769	421,540	302,722
Medical and Health	415,484	940,765	947,052
Municipal (Kuching)	151,626	1,019,702	307,574
Pensions and Provident Fund	405,258	1,087,300	1,225,853
Posts and Telegraphs	128,051	310,179	198,990
Public Works Department	434,765	2,161,421	1,651,088
Residents and District Officers	332,913	501,735	601,600
Treasury	839,589	1,097,318	2,359,179
Arrears of Pension, Pay, etc.	1,271,952	—	1,033,318
Unallocated (Stores in transit, etc.)	—	—	320,000

Public Debt

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities

The following figures show the actual position at the 1st of January, 1947 and an estimate of the position at 1st January, 1948 based on the latest figures available for 1947 :—

LIABILITIES

	Actual 1st Jan. 1947.	Revised estimates 1st Jan. 1948.
1. Deposits—Courts, etc.	\$ 280,620.45	\$ 184,000.00
2. Provident Fund	2,877,236.31	2,790,000.00
3. Suspense	1,061,387.46	2,426,705.00
4. Credit Balances :—		
Bouys and Lights Fund,		
Rubber Fund Current a/c.,		
B.M.A. Current a/c., Bal-		
ance of a/c during B.M.A.,		
B.M.A. Supplies, Custodian		
of Property a/c; and other		
Sundry Creditors	10,259,548.88	6,693,462.00

LIABILITIES

	<i>Actual</i> 1st Jan. 1947.	<i>Revised estimates</i> 1st Jan. 1948.
5. Sir Charles Vyner Brooke Education Fund	428,571.43	428,000.00
6. Revenue Replacement and Contingencies Reserve Fund ...	3,587,000.00	3,587,000.00
7. Balance—Unappropriated Surplus	4,710,179.80	5,715,601.00
	<hr/> \$22,704,544.33	<hr/> \$21,824,768.00

ASSETS

	\$	\$
1. Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works—Advance ...	4,000.00	4,000.00
2. Investments:		
British and Colonial Government etc., Securities ...	11,400,605.60	10,394,985.00
Sarawak Electricity Supply Co. Ltd.	262,988.00	262,988.00
3. Cash in Treasuries and with Government Agents ...	1,261,368.92	674,670.00
4. Cash at Banks on Fixed Deposit and on Current a/c ...	4,939,963.94	5,986,650.00
5. Cash in Transit	28,987.25	30,000.00
6. Suspense	216,918.96	71,000.00
7. Stock in hand and in transit ...	3,612,909.08	3,320,000.00
8. Sundry Debtors and Advances	800,804.99	780,475.00
9. Loans	175,997.59	850,000.00
	<hr/> \$22,704,544.33	<hr/> \$21,824,768.00

Taxation

The main source of income in the Colony is Customs Imports and Export Duties which comprise approximately two-thirds of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1947 is \$8,649,795.

The next most important head is that of "Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified" which includes the revenue obtained by Government from the granting of monopolies for the sale of arrack. The total estimated to be received for 1947 under this head is \$711,070, of which \$391,150 arises from the monopolies referred to.

In the year under review an important item of revenue arose from the sale of stamps to dealers on the issue of the



Chinese making noodles in Sibui. The noodles are originally cut in 20 inch lengths from the dough and are stretched to a length of 3 yards.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Sarawak stamps overprinted with the Royal Cypher. This totalled no less than \$394,000.

Customs Tariff

A conference was held in Singapore on 26th to 28th July, 1947, with North Borneo and Brunei in an attempt to reach, so far as individual economic and trade conditions permitted, a unified tariff for the three territories. The new tariffs were introduced into Sarawak on the 8th of December, 1947, and in a normal year should produce a substantial increase in revenue.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, coffee, tinned meats, soap, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue producing items in 1947 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$2,197,048, on petroleum products \$279,399, and on alcoholic liquors \$266,477; and Export Duties on rubber \$3,016,869 and on sago \$963,533.

Excise and Stamp Duties

(a) *Excise.* There is no excise duty, as such, in Sarawak, but a fee which is based on excise procedure is levied on the sale of matches manufactured within the Colony.

(b) *Stamp Duties.* Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provision of the stamp Ordinance (Chapter 17 of the Revised Edition of the Laws). The principal duties are:—

Affidavits or declaration in writing ...	\$2.00
Agreements or contracts ...	.25
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ...	5.00
Bill of Exchange ...	5 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed	\$3.00

Lease or agreement for a lease or tenancy.	...	Sliding scale.
Mortgage	...	From 10 cents to \$1.00.
Promissory Note	...	5 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Receipts	...	3 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00
Transfer of property	...	Sliding scale.

By reason of the structure of the public accounts, it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from this source.

Poll and Hut Tax

The system of Malay hasil (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax, has been continued. Such collections, where Native Treasuries have been instituted are, however, paid over to the Native Treasuries in full. The "door" tax is equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in other territories as the "door" is the apartment in a Dayak long-house occupied by a single family. "Head tax" is applicable mainly to Malays and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes

There is no Income Tax at present.

Estate Duties

The present rates, which yield approximately \$30,000 per annum, are :—

Where the value of the estate

exceeds \$500 but does not exceed \$5,000	...	3 per cent.
„ 5,000 do. 25,000	...	4 do.
„ 25,000 do. 50,000	...	5 do.
„ 50,000 do. 100,000	...	6 do.
„ 100,000 and over	...	8 do.

These rates were under revision at the end of the year.

CHAPTER 4

Currency and Banking

Currency

In order to provide a uniform currency for the invading troops throughout British Borneo, it was decided that upon the re-occupation of the country Malayan Currency should be provided for their use. It was also expected that the Japanese would have withdrawn most of the local currency and replaced this with their own. In the event surprising amounts of local currency re-appeared in the earliest days of the re-occupation.

It was intended that the re-introduction of Sarawak notes should begin when the Civil Government took over but the Cession of the State to the Crown in July, 1946 led to a continuation of the Malayan issue.

The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak :—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

There is approximately \$9,000,000 of Malayan currency in circulation and approximately \$6,000,000 of Sarawak pre-occupation currency. Sarawak currency is being slowly withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. There is no British North Borneo currency in circulation. Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

Banking

The Japanese amalgamated all local banks and formed a new Company with increased capital. Upon the re-occupation the position of the Chinese Banks was precarious. Their liquid and floating assets had been largely wasted and their Sarawak currency cash balances and Bank credit with the Yokohama Specie Bank had been exchanged for "banana" money.

In order to provide traders with facilities to transact overseas business, Government granted local credit to the

Chinese Banks against adequate security over buildings and rubber estates, to enable them to finance exports.

The fate of the three small Chinese Trading Banks in Sarawak continues to give some concern. The publication of the Debtor Creditor Legislation and consequent lifting of the moratorium will undoubtedly present these banks with problems of some magnitude in meeting the pressing claims of depositors, while the collection of overdrafts (always a lengthy business) is proceeding. Government aid, either in the form of the opening of a substantial current account or by means of loans secured on the banks' fixed assets may become necessary.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1947 was 2,258 and the amount at credit to depositors was \$727,896.96. During the year deposits amounted to \$546,307.94 which exceeded withdrawals by \$180,547.82.

CHAPTER 5

Commerce

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for 1947 was \$175,393,280 as compared with \$78,415,599 for the year 1940, which is the last year for which complete figures are available. The figure for 1946 (\$56,354,765) only covers the period 15th April to 31st December, 1946, the Civil Government having taken over from the British Military Administration on the 15th April of that year. This total for 1947 is comprised as follows :—

Total Exports	...	\$103,138,575
Total Imports	...	72,254,705

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$30,883,870 for 1947 does not shew a clear picture of the position as exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$51,225,640 of the total exports.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports being \$29,541,206. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum are included in the total value of exports. If the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the territory of Brunei and in Sarawak itself be disregarded, the favourable trade balance for 1947 would be \$9,199,436, computed as follows :—

Total Exports	...	\$51,912,935
Total Imports	...	42,713,499
		<hr/>
		\$9,199,436

While the figure of \$30,883,870 can be regarded as an over-statement of the true trade balance, the figure \$9,199,436 may be regarded as too modest as it does not take into account the production of oil in Sarawak. It is however, a considerable improvement on 1946 as figures included in the following tables will show.

Imports

The declared value of imports for 1947 was \$72,254,705, made up as follows :—

	1947	1946 (April to December)
Foodstuffs	\$16,717,268	\$10,821,959
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	6,206,787	2,141,474
Petroleum, crude & refined ...	30,642,644	4,678,106
Tobacco	5,471,098	4,607,844
Manufactured goods & sundries	13,216,908	6,547,209
	<u>\$72,254,705</u>	<u>\$28,796,092</u>

During the whole of 1947 the basic foodstuffs, i.e. rice, sugar and flour, continued to be imported on Government procurement, as well as large quantities of textiles from the United Kingdom and a smaller quantity from Japan. The rest of the trade returned to normal private enterprise and shops in the larger towns became well stocked with consumer goods.

Although the total value of imports rose to the figure of \$72,254,705 compared with only \$32,645,192 in 1940, the quantities imported in almost every case were less than in 1940.

Exports

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1947 (\$103,138,575) was comprised as under :—

	1947	1946 (April to December)
Petroleum, crude and refined	\$51,225,640	\$ 4,168,940
Rubber	26,084,589	19,316,549
Sago Flour	10,598,863	1,105,271
Pepper	3,213,497	859,901
Jelutong	2,707,422	124,304
Various guttas	832,466	38,473
Damar	487,143	122,343
Sundries	7,988,955	1,822,892
	<u>\$103,138,575</u>	<u>\$27,558,673</u>

Compared with 1940, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 962,792 tons to 1,672,230 tons in 1947, and the declared value per ton was higher.

During the Japanese occupation most of the pepper plantations were abandoned, and the vines were so neglected



Pepper gardener, Sarikei. He is taking off the unripe seeds which must not be allowed to mature on the vine until the latter has reached a certain age.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

that there is even a shortage of planting material. It will be many years before Sarawak pepper production regains its former importance. Owing to the high demand, stocks of pepper which had been hoarded during the Japanese occupation and before, reached the market and were exported at very high values compared with 1940. The pepper-corn can be stored for years and it is a common practice for the Chinese pepper merchant to hoard his stocks when the price falls too low to be profitable.

Despite shortage of materials required in the process production of sago flour was greatly stimulated by good prices, and 39,221 tons were exported as against 23,142 tons in 1940.

There was no export of gold as this industry has been practically at a standstill owing to the high cost of rehabilitation, the low controlled price of gold, the difficulty of obtaining essential materials and the low assay value of the ore. Despite these and other difficulties some mines were about to begin work at the end of the year.

During the course of the year two ships put into the Rejang River to load timber for Australia direct, and one vessel loaded a cargo of firewood for Hong Kong. These are comparatively new trades and are likely to expand.

The firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony fall, roughly speaking, into two main groups :

- (i) the Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) the Chinese Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses are European firms importing from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries of the Empire proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. These firms hold important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases act more as branch offices of their Principals.

In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business and also engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants.

The Chinese merchants engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some act as agency houses, but on a much smaller scale than do the European firms.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and

other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but practically the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the hands of the Chinese merchants large or small. In the larger towns and bazaars there are some shops which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash, but many combine this with the purchase of rubber and other produce. The sundry goods which they have for sale will include a great variety of oriental foodstuffs : sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, prawn-paste and dried fish which vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources. Most imported goods are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago to Europe and rubber to America, are now becoming more frequent.

The more important Chinese shops in the towns are usually linked with firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in the towns have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars whom they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas. Piquant items such as dragons' blood and ant-eater skins are more interesting than important.

Most of the jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, other than those which they can themselves supply, are very few. The up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of his Dayak customers who may from time to time set their hearts on any object, but have a natural partiality for gold and silver ornaments.

Very little local weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns, very little more is really needed by natives than salt and oils for lighting and cooking and

iron for the manufacture of tools and weapons. It is interesting to note, however, how great is the variety of goods normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

CHAPTER 6

Production

AGRICULTURE

It is estimated that an area of only approximately 5,100 square miles is at present regularly used for agricultural purposes. The major part of the interior of the Colony is poor variable hill land very thinly populated. Considerable portions of the deltas are deep peat swamp, though there are areas of good padi land on the banks of the main rivers and in certain coastal regions. The best agricultural land of the Colony is in the Fifth Division, in the north-east.

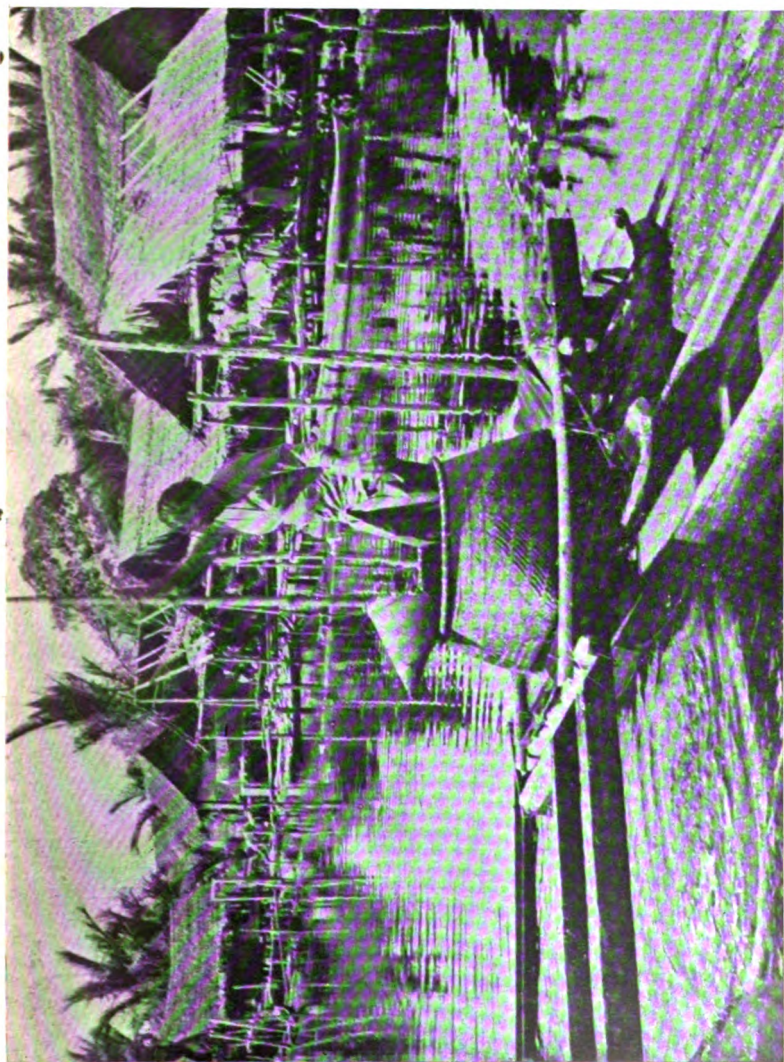
The average annual rainfall for the country is 160 inches; in the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall (approximately 75 inches in the months of December, January and February); in the north-east there are no pronounced maxima or minima and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform. Rainfall during 1947 was below average, the months at the beginning of the year being unusually dry.

Apart from five large rubber estates small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The aim of the Agricultural Department is to improve their standards of cultivation and for this purpose it maintains a number of agricultural stations and demonstration plots.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are detailed below :—

(a) *Padi*. This is the main crop though local production of rice only satisfies about half the country's needs. There are few large compact blocks and most of the crop is grown in small scattered patches, both as wet padi and hill padi. The hill padi is grown under a system of long bush fallows chiefly by the Ibans. The technique of the wet padi cultivation is often primitive. Yields on both wet and hill padi are generally low.

Owing to the scattered nature of the cultivation, poor



Preparing sago at Kampong Tian, near Matu.

communications and shortage of staff it is almost impossible to make an accurate estimate but it is believed that there are about 250,000 acres at present planted, divided equally between wet padi and hill padi. Yields for the 1946-47 season were poor due to a dry season. Conditions at planting of the 1947-48 crop were difficult but on the whole the crop promises well.

(b) *Rubber* is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated that there were 239,557 acres under rubber in 1941, of which 10,580 acres were accounted for by five estates. The trees on the small holdings are often poor and the technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. The industry made a rapid recovery in 1947 and at the end of the year exports were near pre-war level.

(c) *Sago*. No accurate estimate of the acreage under sago has been made but it is believed to be about 150,000 acres, a major part being concentrated in the Mukah, Oya, and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by the Melanaus. Sago flour is an important export and production is at present at a high level. Some anxiety is being felt as to whether the present rate of regeneration and planting can keep pace with the rate of working. The quality of the product has not been uniformly good and steps are to be taken to remedy this.

(d) *Pepper* was an important export product before the war but the gardens were largely abandoned during the Japanese occupation and production is now negligible. Some progress is being made with the rehabilitation of the industry.

(e) *Coconuts* are mainly a smallholder's crop largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage is estimated at 21,000 acres. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

(f) *Tuba root* (derris) has been cultivated in the past but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is at present a good demand.

(g) *Gambier* was an important product some years ago but production is now negligible as the demand for this product has fallen off greatly in recent years.

(h) *Pineapples* of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced.

(i) *Tobacco*—small areas are planted by the natives for

their own use. Some years ago a fair quality "wrapper" leaf was produced and steps to restart the industry are being taken.

(j) *Fresh fruit and Vegetables* adequate for local needs are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

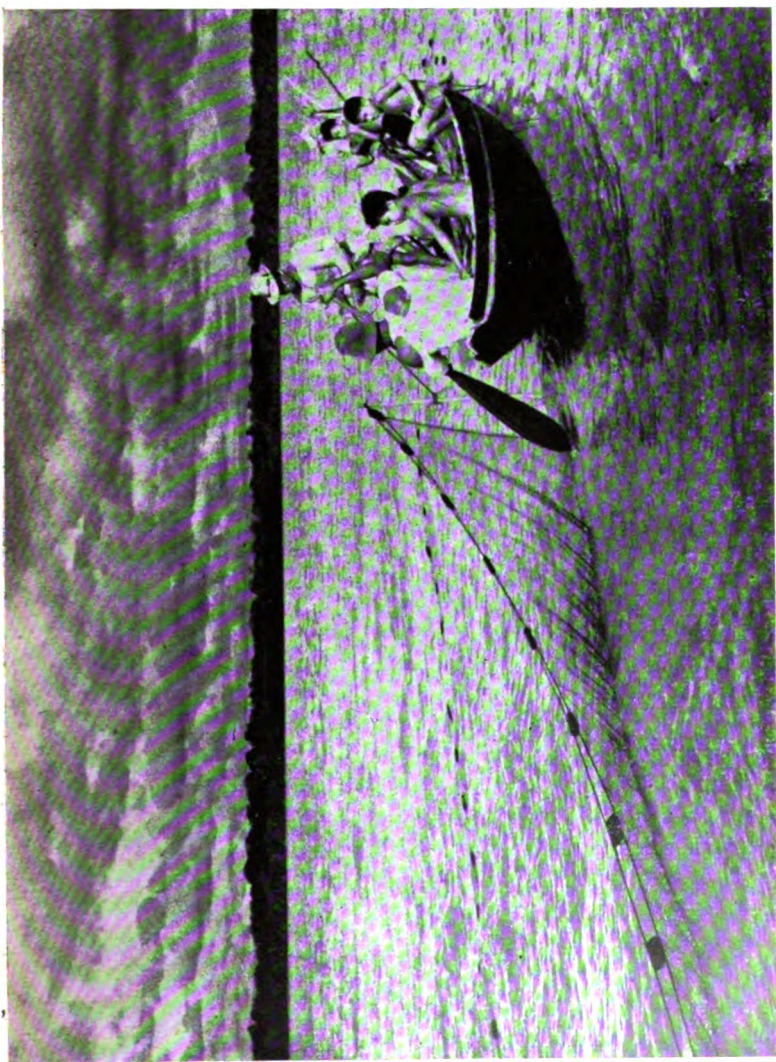
Animal husbandry plays but a small part in Sarawak. Bullocks are rarely seen. Considerable herds of buffaloes are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese smallholders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in, and around the villages of Dayaks.

FISHERIES

Fresh water fisheries on a small scale are maintained by Chinese smallholders near the towns. The sea fisheries are mainly coastal and are worked usually by small syndicates. Most of the fishermen are Chinese, Melanaus or Malays.

Despite the fact that there are good fishing grounds in the immediate vicinity of Sarawak, and that many of the people on the coast depend on fishing for their livelihood, the Colony is by no means self-supporting in this most important foodstuff which plays a large part in the national diet. Most of the fishing is carried out by elementary and out-of-date measures, and the methods of drying, curing and marketing are wasteful and inefficient. The improvement of the fishing industry is therefore an important item in the development of the Colony.

As a first step a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme has been approved for a survey of the fisheries of Sarawak over a period of two years. The survey is a necessary preliminary to the preparation of plans to help the fishing industry. The scheme provides not only for a survey of the fisheries in order to gather the basic information lacking, but for practical experiments in the possibility of power methods in Sarawak waters. The possibility of producing fish meal locally both a high grade edible meal and



Melanaus fishing by the "Lenkong" method at Belawai. It is used during the dry season, along the shore.

a lower grade meal for agricultural use, will also be investigated.

The scheme makes provision for a Fisheries Survey Officer, who has been appointed and took a course of training in certain technical aspects during 1947, and for a Master Fisherman who will take charge of the practical side of the investigations.

FORESTRY

The forests of the Colony may be classified as evergreen rain forest and consist of three main types:—

(a) *Mangrove forest* which occurs in the deltas of the main rivers, and produces firewood, charcoal and cutch (tanning extract).

(b) *Inland Swamp (fresh water) forest*.

This is very extensive producing good quality timber and minor produce, the most valuable of which is *jelutong*, a wild latex obtained from *Dyera Lowii* and much in demand in the manufacture of chewing gum.

(c) *Dry or hill forest*—the best type, producing valuable timber, both hardwoods and softwoods, also minor forest produce such as rotans and resins. This type of forest was at one time very extensive, but a large proportion of the more accessible forest has been destroyed by shifting cultivation. The forest products of Sarawak fall under two heads, referred to as major and minor forest produce.

(i) *Major forest produce*. This includes timber and firewood. There are at present no large timber enterprises operating in the Colony and 19 medium sized sawmills supply domestic needs and a surplus for export to neighbouring territories. There is a demand for prime lumber from the United Kingdom and Australia, but any expansion of this trade has been hindered in the past by the inability of the mills to find an outlet for lower grade lumber. China is a potential market but transport and freight are difficulties to be surmounted. Direct shipping communication would be a great incentive to the development of this trade. There are three pilot enterprises operating under European supervision which may lead to the development of an export industry both in sawn timber and in the log with Australia and China.

In 1947, the estimated total production of timber was 1,116,850 cubic feet of which 284,950 cubic feet were

exported. The estimated production of firewood and charcoal (devoted almost entirely to supplying local needs) was 28,019 long tons.

(ii) *Minor forest produce.* The principal minor forest products all of which are exported, are wild rubber (*jelutong*), canes (*rotan*) and resins (*damar*). Of these the most important is *jelutong*. It is collected by crude methods of tapping and coagulated with acetic or phosphoric acid or other substances.

Every three or four years there is a large crop of wild illipe nuts produced by the various *Shorea* Spp. from which is pressed a very valuable vegetable fat used in the manufacture of "cream" for chocolates and of cosmetics. The incidence of the crop is uncertain and its collection often difficult.

In 1947, the production of wild rubbers of all types was 3,907 long tons, canes 745 long tons and resins 1,881 long tons. In addition the illipe nut crop amounted to 7,658 long tons.

There is also a considerable internal trade in roofing thatch (*atap*) and walling (*kajang*) made from the leaves of the *Nipa* palm which is abundant in the coastal swamps.

MINING

The minerals mined in 1947 were gold and oil. The amount of gold won was 429.406 ounces. None of this gold was exported but was deposited with the Financial Secretary pending a decision on the price at which it may be sold. The gold is worked by small Chinese syndicates, mostly from alluvial pockets. The industry is adversely affected by lack of machinery and high labour costs.

Oil is produced in the Fourth Division by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. on a concession from the Government. It was not until the second quarter of the year that the Company commenced substantial rehabilitation of the Miri Oilfields. Deep boring tests are to be undertaken but there has been delay owing to the lack of special tools.

Coal deposits exist. The Government previously operated a coal mine at Sadong but it has been closed for some years. Investigations have been carried out during 1947 by a team of experts. All known deposits have been examined but it

is not yet known whether any of them, having regard to their quality, extent and accessibility, merit further detailed examination with a view to their exploitation.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The only major industry in Sarawak is the refining of oil. All the oil produced in Brunei and Sarawak is refined at Lutong in the Fourth Division.

There are a few minor industries such as the manufacture of matches, soap and aerated water and the curing of fish.

Towards the end of the year the Raga Chemical Works were established at Pending near Kuching for the manufacture of acetic acid and alcohol from mangrove and nipah (nipa fruticans) sugar. Experiments are also being made with a view to the possibility of manufacturing high grade varnishes from local damar.

CHAPTER 7

SOCIAL SERVICES

Education

Historical Introduction

A Department of Education was first created in 1924 when a Director was appointed. During the depression of the early thirties, however, the Education vote had to be reduced and the post of Director was abolished. It was not until 1939 that the post of Director was revived and even then the responsibility for the Chinese Schools was the concern of the Chinese Affairs Department. In April 1946, on the resumption of Civil Government after the Japanese occupation, the Education Department was reconstituted by appointing the only available Education Officer to act as Director in charge of all educational services including the Chinese School system.

During the war 17 schools were totally destroyed, and 35 others partially damaged, as a direct result of the fighting. At most other schools furniture and equipment were looted and buildings became dilapidated because little or no attempt was made to carry out necessary repairs. During the four years of Japanese occupation most of the Government Malay Schools continued to function, but attendances were low and attempts to introduce the teaching of the Japanese language met with little success. All the Mission Schools remained closed during occupation and the teaching of English ceased completely. Some of the Chinese Schools continued, but enrolments were much smaller than in pre-war days.

On the arrival of the British Military Administration in November, 1945, immediate steps were taken to restore educational services. Government Schools and the Teacher-training College were re-opened, the work of the larger Mission urban schools was resumed and the Chinese Schools were re-equipped with commendable rapidity. The work of rehabilitation continued successfully under the Civil Government during 1946, and by the end of the year 73 Government Schools, 30 Mission Schools, 3 Private Schools and 173

Chinese Schools were functioning. The total enrolment at these schools at the end of 1946 was 28,171 compared with 22,344 in 1941.

Administration

During 1947 an Educational Adviser was appointed and this officer acted as Director for the latter half of the year. The senior staff was further strengthened by the appointment of a second Education Officer, and two Chinese Inspectors were responsible for the supervision of Chinese Schools. Unfortunately the inspection of Government Schools became less efficient because the only Malay Visiting Teacher resigned early in the year. Shortage of staff permitted of only a few short visits being paid to Mission Schools. District Officers of the Administrative Service visited and reported on all types of schools as frequently as their normal administrative duties allowed. "The Schools Ordinance, 1946", which came into operation at the beginning of 1947, consolidated and amended the law relating to Schools.

Finance

In the 1947 Estimates a sum of \$262,395 (£30,612) was allocated to the Education Department in respect of personal emoluments and recurrent expenditure. This allocation was just under 4% of the Colony's estimated total expenditure under these heads. A further sum of \$63,560 (£7,415) was made available towards the cost of rehabilitation of schools. Although accurate figures were not available it was estimated that the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$172,000 (£20,066), and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$929,000 (£108,383), on educational services. These amounts were mainly derived from school-fees and "donations," and were additional to Grants-in-Aid paid from Government funds.

Government Schools

In 1946 there were 73 Government (Malay) Schools with 146 teachers and 5,655 pupils. At the end of 1947 there were 72 Government Schools staffed by 109 Government Teachers with a total enrolment of 4,416. This discouraging decrease in the number of teachers and pupils was the result of "anti-cession" feeling which was particularly strong amongst Malay teachers. 87 out of 152 Malay teachers resigned and 22 out of 62 Government Malay Schools had

in consequence to be closed. The loss of senior trained teachers and the closing of the only Teacher-training College resulted in a very serious set-back to the progress of education for the Malay community which in the past had been especially favoured in the matter of Government Schools. Prior to the war there was only one Government School for the indigenous peoples, (other than the Malays and Melanaus), who comprise a little over half the population. After the war these peoples demanded education and, by the end of 1947, seventeen Government Schools had been established to meet the urgent requests of the Dayaks, Kenyahs, Kayans and Muruts. Considerable tact has had to be exercised to keep the provision of these new vernacular schools within practical limits. There is available but a small number of teachers with a modicum of education, and the teacher-training schemes described earlier in this Report have not yet begun to bear fruit.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are required to provide and maintain the school buildings, equipment and teachers' quarters. The teachers' salaries and allowances and the cost of equipment such as text-books are met from Government funds. No fees are charged, but the pupils have to provide their own stationery and writing materials. School Committees, with advisory powers, have recently been formed at some of the Government Schools.

The standard of attainment fell considerably during 1947 because schools had largely to be staffed with untrained and inexperienced teachers. The tendency was to concentrate on the basic subjects, and others such as gardening, handwork and physical-training suffered accordingly.

In all the Malay Schools Malay is the medium of instruction. Before the war English was taught as a subject only at the main school in Kuching, but English is now being introduced at other Malay Schools as and when teachers of sufficient ability become available. In non-Malay Schools the local vernacular is the medium, but English, for which there is a keen demand, is being taught in all these schools.

Mission Schools

In 1946 there were 30 Mission Schools with a total enrolment of 4,181. At the end of 1947 there were 58

Mission Schools, staffed by 192 teachers and with an enrolment of 5,087 pupils. Previously the Mission Schools catered mainly for the Chinese children in the large towns, but since the re-occupation there has been considerable expansion, especially under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Mission, of rural schools for the indigenous races.

All the Mission Schools received from the Government grants based on a percentage of staff salaries. During 1947 these grants amounted to \$72,788 (£8,491) compared with \$46,412 (£5,415) in 1946. In order to encourage the establishment of rural schools, the grants paid to these schools were based on a more generous formula than that used for the larger urban schools. Since the war there has been a marked decrease in the number of boarders at the central schools because the increase in the cost of living necessitated the raising of the boarding-fees to as much as \$30.00 (£3 10s) per month.

Post-primary courses were provided at five urban Mission schools, and 43 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior Certificate Examination at the end of 1947. English is the medium of instruction, and these schools produce practically all the entrants to the junior branches of the Government Service. In the rural Mission schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools

At the end of 1947 there were 192 Chinese schools with 656 teachers and 19,522 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1946 were 173 schools, 592 teachers, and 18,222 pupils. The Chinese Schools are generally conducted by individual Committees; but in Kuching the control of all the Chinese Schools in the town has recently been centralised under one Board of Management.

During 1947 a block grant from Government funds amounting to \$29,844 (£3,481) was paid to 68 Aided Schools with a total mixed enrolment of 11,332.

There are two separate "Junior Middle" Schools, and a further eight schools have combined Primary and Middle departments. The curriculum is almost identical with that followed by schools in China. The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction, and English is taught as a subject.

Private Native Schools

At the end of 1947 there were eight Private Native Schools with 18 teachers and 591 pupils. These schools are established and maintained by Committees of the local Malay or Dayak communities; the cost being largely met from fees and contributions. Small grants were paid to these schools during 1947. The curriculum is similar to that approved for Government vernacular schools.

Higher Education

There is no University in Sarawak, but scholarships are provided to enable more promising students to proceed overseas for higher studies. Under these schemes during 1947 there were four medical students, one dental student and four agricultural students attending courses in Singapore and Malaya.

Adult Education

At a number of Chinese Schools and at a few Government and Mission Schools "Night Classes" are organised to enable adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and, in a few instances, to study English. In Kuching classes are conducted by the Education Department to assist entrants to Government Service whose standard of education is below the minimum required for permanent appointment. These academic classes have been very successful and 32 students reached the requisite standard during 1947. A Shorthand Class has not proved so popular. Literacy Classes are conducted in some of the Prisons by voluntary workers.

Youth Work and Out-of-school Activities

There are several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose object is to foster social, educational and cultural activities. Others provide facilities for games.

Boy Scouts were organised by the former Sarawak Government under a local Association. During 1947 this Association applied for registration with the Imperial Headquarters in London. At the end of the year there were eight groups of Scouts, seven of which were attached to schools, with a membership of 532.

Girl Guides were formed in 1946, and by the end of 1947

two companies of Guides with a membership of 56, and two packs of Brownies with a membership of 48, had been established. These groups are attached to Missions in Kuching.

Development Schemes

Late in 1947 a grant of \$704,806 (£82,228) was approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the establishment, and maintenance over five years, of a Government teacher-training Centre and a Secondary School in a joint institution. Preliminary arrangements have been made and it is anticipated that this institution will be opened about the middle of 1948.

A further grant of \$275,194 (£32,106) under the same Act was approved for the establishment of a Rural Improvement School, the purpose of which is outlined in Part I of this Report.

Health

ADMINISTRATION

Staff

Since 1938, and until July, 1947, Senior Staff of the Medical and Health Department was seconded from Malaya. It was then decided that the Colony would have its own department with its own personnel. An establishment of a Director, seven Medical Officers, one Lady Medical Officer, two Assistant Medical Officers, a Matron and a Nursing Sister was approved as the senior staff of the department. The Director was appointed and arrived in the Colony in July. Of the two seconded Malayan Officers in the Country, one accepted transfer to Sarawak as did also the Matron.

Recruitment to fill vacancies in the establishment proved very difficult, although prospects seemed brighter as the year closed. At the end of the year senior departmental staff consisted of the Director, one Medical Officer, the Lady Medical Officer, two Assistant Medical Officers and the Matron.

Not the least of the difficulties to be overcome was the recruitment of junior personnel with necessary educational standard to train as dressers to fill the substantial number of vacancies in the establishment. These difficulties were accentuated when recruitment became necessary not only to fill vacancies caused by the Japanese occupation, but also

to provide staff for a travelling dispensaries scheme under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts.

By the end of the year the position with regard to dressers and nurses was reasonably good. There are, however, no European Sanitary Inspectors and only two men with the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The remaining health inspectors are unqualified and will not be able to obtain the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as they have not the educational qualifications required for the examination. It is hoped to recruit an experienced Health Inspector competent to train the local Inspectors, who would be useful men although not holding the Royal Sanitary Institute certificate.

Legislation

It was not found possible to enact a Public Health Ordinance in 1947. A short ordinance entitled the Prevention of Diseases Ordinance, 1947 was enacted, empowering the Governor in Council to make rules relating to many aspects of public health, and providing for the notification of the five "Convention" diseases.

Finance

The expenditure on medical and health services during the year was \$970,258.38, a figure more than double that of the previous year and approximately three times the annual expenditure of the years immediately preceding the Japanese occupation.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES

Malaria

A total of 18,182 cases were diagnosed as malaria at the hospitals and outstation dispensaries and the number of deaths attributed to this cause was 104. In most of the malarial cases, however, the diagnosis was not made microscopically and the available figures, therefore, provide no sound basis on which to found any conclusions either as to the incidence of the disease or its relative intensity in various parts of the Colony compared with past years. In 1946, the number of cases reported was 29,507 and, from May to November of that year a serious epidemic of malaria occurred in the coastal districts. During 1947 epidemic conditions did not develop and no alarming incidence was reported from any part of the country.



A Borneo Company log raft from the Upper Rejang awaiting shipment to Australia at Gunong Ayer on the Lower Rejang.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

In June 1947, a Research Scheme (No. R.158) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts was approved to provide a sum of £20,800 for the carrying out of a malaria Research Survey in the territories of North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei over a period of three years.

With the little accurate information at present available control measures in the Colony were based on the following :—

- (a) Coastal Malaria—Control of *A. sundiacus*,
- (b) Malaria in the Inland Plain e.g. Kuching—Control of *A. umbrosus* and *A. leucosphyrus* by clearing of cover,
- (c) Malaria in Jungle Areas—Control of fever by drugs.

In Bintulu and Miri, the coastal towns particularly affected in the 1946 epidemic, anti malaria organisations were set up. That in Miri was a fairly elaborate one and was the result of combined effort on the part of the Government and the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, anti-larval measures being combined with control by suppressive drugs.

It is difficult to assess the efficacy of these measures as they were initiated when there was a falling incidence of the disease. Nevertheless the expected rise in incidence towards the end of the year did not eventuate.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 1,090 and 211 deaths were attributed to this cause. The majority of these cases were of the pulmonary form.

There can be little doubt that tuberculosis is much more prevalent and widespread than the figures available indicate, but information is incomplete. The shophouses of the towns are favourable to the spread of the disease and so, too, are the Dayak "long houses" where large numbers of persons live a life of close contact under a single roof.

At present little can be done to combat the infection in the absence of adequate sanitary staff and in face of the unsatisfactory living conditions and insanitary habits of large sections of the people.

Leprosy

All cases diagnosed during the year were segregated in the Leper Settlement, the population of which, when the year

closed, was 352 as compared with 289 at the end of 1946. These figures do not indicate an increased incidence but rather increased activity in the outstation dispensaries in picking up cases ignored during the occupation years. Another factor is, doubtless, wider recognition of the fact that care and treatment are available once more in the Leper Settlement.

Yaws

This infection is widely prevalent in the Colony but especially in the Second Division. As it is more readily diagnosed on clinical grounds than is malaria the figures of cases reported probably give a truer picture of the incidence of this infection. A total of 15,136 cases were diagnosed from all parts of the Colony. Arsenical drugs were used in treatment, and such injections were greatly valued. Nevertheless patients seldom attended frequently enough to effect complete cure.

Venereal Diseases

Such information as is available suggests that although venereal infection is common, the incidence is not unusually high.

Diphtheria

Past records show a substantial incidence of this infection with periodic epidemic increases. The incidence was not unusually high during 1947. 279 cases were reported and of these 149 occurred within the Municipality of Kuching. The number of deaths attributed to diphtheria was 14.

Diagnosed cases are dealt with in the usual manner but there is, as yet, no organised immunisation against the disease.

The Enteric Fevers

A total of 279 cases were recorded but this can give no proper indication of the incidence of these infections.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa

As is to be expected these terms figured largely in the outstation dispensary returns, but there is little information available as to the causative agents.

Helminthiasis

Ascaris infestation is extremely common and so, too, is hookworm infection. The latter is, however, not frequently

diagnosed because of the lack, in the smaller stations, of microscopical aid.

Typhus

There is no record of epidemic typhus having occurred in the country and the few cases of endemic typhus reported in past years appear to have been diagnosed on clinical grounds. No cases were diagnosed during 1947, nevertheless, with the extension of medical and laboratory services it will not be surprising if cases of endemic typhus come to light among the many undifferentiated fevers which are, at present, so readily classified as malaria.

Smallpox, Plague and Cholera

No cases of these major epidemic diseases occurred in the Colony during the year.

Deficiency Diseases

A small number of cases of beri-beri and pellagra were treated in the hospitals but many cases, classified as "debility" were encountered in the Female Outpatient Department in Kuching. It is probable that a deficiency of essential nutrients would be found to be not uncommon were there sufficient staff available to enable more attention to be directed to this important matter.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH

The Government operates two hospitals and twenty-two dispensaries. Most of the latter have rest-beds up to a maximum of twelve. The Sarawak Oilfields Limited at Miri operates its own hospital primarily for its employees but also, by arrangement, for the general population.

There are no medical missions in the country but, at a few mission stations outpatient treatment is provided and, at two, inpatients are cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

By arrangement with the Government of Brunei, the State Medical Officer pays a monthly visit to the Limbang dispensary in the Fifth Division of Sarawak and people from this Division may be hospitalised in Brunei Hospital.

General Hospital, Kuching

This is the main hospital of the Colony and is the training

centre. It has 250 beds, which include medical and surgical wards, a maternity ward, a children's ward, a cubicle ward, general ward for tuberculosis cases and wards for the chronic sick.

The Radiological Department is not satisfactory as space is limited and the plant is old and defective. A new plant ordered in 1946 had not arrived by the end of 1947. There is an adequate clinical laboratory in the charge of a Senior Technician which does good work.

Total admissions numbered 5,873 and, of these 3,985 were Chinese. Births in hospital numbered 686, the Chinese accounting for 627.

Although much of the equipment left a great deal to be desired a reasonably high standard of treatment was provided.

The Outpatient Department, Kuching

The male section is attached to the General Hospital while the female section is located in the centre of the town. In both cases accommodation is inadequate. Nevertheless, new attendances at the female section numbered 18,468 and total attendances 34,795, while at the male section 6,480 cases were treated.

Mental Hospital, Kuching

This institution serves the whole Colony. It is unsatisfactory in that it is sited too close to the general hospital in accommodation which is unsuited to the treatment of mental cases as opposed to their restraint. There is accommodation for a hundred patients and there were 79 inmates at the end of the year.

Lau King Hau Hospital, Sibuluan

This hospital serves the Third Division, the largest and most productive administrative division of the Colony. It has fifty general and maternity beds and, during the year, had 1,689 admissions. New cases attending the outpatient department numbered 24,918 and total attendances were 37,555.

The medical staff was one Assistant Medical Officer and there is no nursing sister.

The operation theatre is badly equipped and there is no X-ray plant. Laboratory facilities are poor and only the simplest procedures are undertaken.

The maternity section did good work, there being 148 births in hospital, with one maternal and seven infant deaths.

Rehabilitation of this hospital is just beginning and will be pressed ahead as additional staff becomes available.

Outstation dispensaries

Twenty-two outstation dispensaries functioned during the year and attendances were, on the whole, satisfactory. The total number of attendances was 131,344 of which 100,851 were new cases. This is only a slight increase over the previous year's figures.

All dispensaries have a staff of at least one dresser and one attendant. In some, but by no means all, where there are duties which entail travelling, a second dresser is available.

Considerable progress was made during the year towards the improvement of the equipment of outstation dispensaries. Owing to the lack of medical officers supervision of them is difficult and it is a credit to the dressers that, with very few exceptions, their keenness and zeal was of a high order.

Travelling dispensaries (Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D 830)

The low population density in the Colony and the wide dispersal of the people make it inevitable, that in spite of the hospitals and dispensaries already referred to, much of the population is remote from any form of medical service. Thus a plan for the provision of medical aid to remote areas by means of travelling dispensaries was prepared and a sum of \$670,000 was approved from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds to implement the plan.

The scheme is to set up two ordinary outstation dispensaries and sixteen mobile dispensaries. As the population of the country is generally located on the banks of the rivers and streams these latter will be in boats—native type *perahu* powered by outboard motors—and will ply on fixed stretches of river, calling at convenient points on fixed days each week. There will be a dresser in each *perahu*, ordinary out-patient dispensary treatment will be provided and, in addition, the boats will serve as river ambulances.

The first two boats, will be operating early in 1948 but the remainder will not be provided till the third year of the

plan, the intervening period being devoted to training the necessary staff. By the end of the year training had commenced and the first two vessels were being built.

Leper Settlement

This institution is sited thirteen miles from Kuching and although apparently originally designed to accommodate some 400 persons, with 352 inmates at 31st December, 1947, there was some degree of overcrowding.

There are only two permanent buildings, the Hospital and the Administration Block. Two new wooden barrack blocks were erected during the year. The remainder of the Settlement buildings are small houses of native type, many in poor repair.

There is no resident medical staff. The institution is in the charge of a Superintendent, a man with long experience in the department as a dresser. He has with him a small permanent staff of non-lepers, namely, a dresser and a number of attendants.

Bi-weekly visits by medical staff from Kuching and also by the Matron have done much since the liberation of the country to raise the standard of care and treatment in the hospital, to organise the settlement on better lines and to produce a better morale among the inmates who had been sadly neglected during the occupation years.

Inmates are encouraged to cultivate land in the vicinity, and many do so. Others operate small shops and coffee stalls and others are employed in the hospital as menial staff or in general labour.

There is a school, which is fairly well attended but which could be considerably developed, a church, a mosque and a Chinese Temple within the Settlement.

Pauper Camp

The Pauper Camp is sited some twelve miles from Kuching and serves the whole Colony. It has accommodation for one hundred male paupers in four barrack type buildings. The buildings are in poor condition and steps are being taken to improve the Camp and to make the life of the inmates happier.

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewage Disposal

There are no major schemes for the water borne disposal of sewage. In the towns of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have private septic tank installations. This apart, the bazaar areas of these towns have a bucket nightsoil service. In the congested areas of Kuching there is general absence of sanitary lanes and inadequate access to premises. Until such areas are replanned their sanitary condition will be difficult to improve. Outside the towns, and wherever it is possible, latrines are built over rivers and creeks.

Scavenging

In all the towns and townships refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness. In Kuching the work is undertaken by the Municipality.

Water Supplies

The most important advance in this regard during the year was the provision of an improved water supply to Sibü. This town draws its water from the Rejang River, which is heavily contaminated. The supply is subjected to precipitation and chlorination and is very satisfactory.

Various other small townships have piped supplies while elsewhere rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population. These latter sources are often contaminated and deserve much attention.

Food

The methods of manufacture of food products and the conditions and storage and sale of food leave much to be desired. Many of the premises are insanitary and many businesses are conducted without regard to the most elementary principles of hygiene. This problem seems likely to remain unsolved until trained sanitary staff is available.

HOUSING

In town areas the trading section of the community lives in two or three storey brick shophouses constructed in rows in the bazaar areas. The ground floor is used for business, and the upper part as living quarters. In some districts the shophouses are turned into tenements, all available space both on the ground floor and upstairs being used as living quarters

by artisans, labourers, hawkers and others, who prefer to live close to their places of employment. Overcrowding in premises often deficient in ventilation and light may often result. In parts of the old bazaar area of Kuching, the shophouses are back to back with no intervening back lanes; this means that light and air are lacking and conservancy difficult.

Plans have been evolved in the past by the Municipal Authorities to provide back lanes and clear up slum areas. So far two blocks of 30 shophouses have been demolished and the construction of a new bazaar with 192 shophouses completed. It will be sometime, however, before the improvement scheme envisaged for the bazaar area can be completed owing to the present difficulty in obtaining building materials.

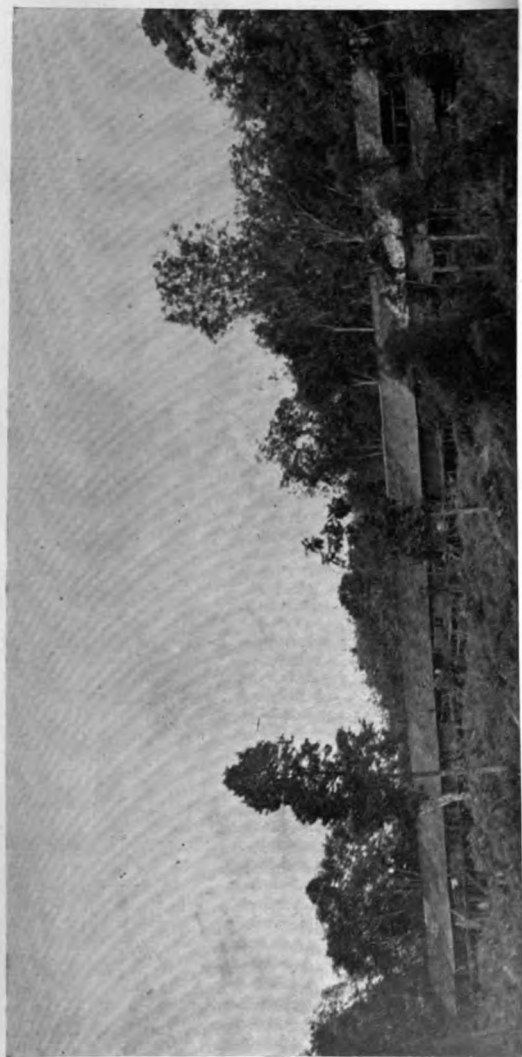
In the less developed areas of the Kuching Municipal area there are many buildings with plank walls, leaf attap roofing and earth floor, or plank flooring raised off the ground. These have been erected and are occupied mainly by Chinese squatters paying nominal rental to the owners of the land, or on Government reserves either on temporary permits or without authority. Almost all these huts were erected before building regulations came into force, and the number increased during the Japanese occupation. Sanitation is not satisfactory. A few houses are provided with a piped water supply but many draw water from public standpipes or shallow wells. Proper drains are often absent.

The Municipal and Health authorities in conjunction with the Town Planning Committee have prepared schemes for the clearance of these areas.

In the Malay areas the buildings are usually of timber construction with wooden shingles or leaf attap roofing. The humbler ones may also have leaf attap walling. These buildings are usually raised eight to ten feet off the ground and are fairly airy and well ventilated. Each stands in its own little plot of ground.

Certain sections of Government employees are housed in terrace quarters, some of modern design built of brick or concrete and others of timber.

The higher salaried classes usually own and occupy dwelling houses of masonry or timber standing in their own



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compounds. The sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. European type bungalows are occupied by Government officers, heads of commercial firms and well-to-do Asiatics.

In the larger outstations the types of houses approximate to those found in the Kuching Municipal area. The smaller stations tend towards the use of locally procured materials for house building.

Further inland in the Kayan and Dayak villages can be found the typical communal longhouses of the interior peoples which are in effect rows of from 10 to 60 houses all under one roof. These are of hardwood frames sometimes of immense size and variously furnished with plank walls and hardwood shingle roofs, or with leaf mat and thatch. Water in these areas is taken direct from the rivers and sanitation is of the most primitive type. These long-houses are invariably raised some 10 to 20 feet above the ground (occasionally as much as 40 feet). All refuse goes through the floor and is almost immediately disposed of by the pigs and poultry on the ground below. These upriver villages follow immemorial custom in their construction as their inhabitants do in their way of life, and it is a matter of considerable difficulty to get these rather primitive tribes to change their habits.

Social Welfare

Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department. This does not mean that the Government of Sarawak performs no social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of women and girls, administers a repatriation vote, and provides Government relief work for indigent Tamil females, who are unwilling to accept repatriation. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund to which the Government contributes. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Institution.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a Community life. The "long house" system ensures that the

individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the padi harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own Associations which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Government Pauper Camp near Kuching. In Sibü, the Chinese with the advice of the Roman Catholic Mission and financial assistance from Government have established a Benevolent Society which runs its own nursing home for the indigent and which is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain outstations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs societies and Youth organisations, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency is a problem which is facing the country at present. During the year arrangements were made to house juvenile offenders at a camp made for them on an Agricultural Station in the Third Division and some were kept at the Kuching Dairy Farm. A Boys' Home has recently been established for male juvenile offenders. It is organised on modern reformatory lines.

A branch of the British Red Cross was opened towards the end of 1947 in Kuching, and is organised on all-community lines. The Kuching branch of the Rotary International takes a practical interest in social welfare and has recently set up a Prisoners Aid Organisation.

The question of the care of women and girls has been receiving attention and the Government has invited a senior officer of the Salvation Army in Singapore to visit Sarawak and investigate problems on the spot.

A Social Welfare Advisory Committee has recently been set up to advise on and to consider further extension of social welfare work in the Colony.

CHAPTER 8

Legislation

Any study of present-day legislation in Sarawak will be unfruitful without some acquaintance with the political history of the Colony. Before March 31st, 1941, the Rajah's word was law. On that date he delegated his legislative powers temporarily to the "Committee of Administration" as he had from time to time delegated them to his brother, the Tuan Muda, and senior officers. On September 24th of the same year all legislative power was vested in the Rajah acting with the advice and consent of the Council Negri. However only one meeting of the Council had been held, and only one Bill, the current Supply Bill, had been enacted, before the Japanese invasion occurred.

The next meeting of the Council Negri was held in May, 1946. This Council passed legislation continuing a few of the Military Proclamations and providing for Supply for the remainder of the year, but its most important work was concerned with the Bill authorising the Rajah, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, to cede Sarawak to His Majesty. This Bill was passed by a small majority, and an Instrument of Cession was signed.

Thus the modern Sarawak legislature has had to struggle with two innovations at the same time, quite apart from fulfilling its duty of catering for the ordinary needs of the Colony. An unfamiliar constitution has had to be made to work, and laws, which were framed for an independent State, have had to be adapted to the country's new status. As society becomes more complicated, the multiplicity of edicts issued on the personal authority of an autocratic Ruler may lead to confusion. This had been realised and for some years before the war "Orders" had been enacted on conventional lines, but there was still a large field in which the old method held sway.

One of the first tasks of the Council Negri, therefore, was to put the legislative house into order; and at the first meeting held under the new regime an Ordinance was passed appointing the Chief Justice, Dr. R. Y. Hedges, the Commissioner

to prepare a revised edition of the laws. This Council also passed fourteen other Ordinances, none of them of outstanding importance but necessary in order to deal with the post-war situation.

One of the difficulties produced by the "constitution" is that legislative power is vested in an assembly which, owing to distances and difficulties of communication, cannot meet more than about twice a year. This fact must be borne in mind when it is noticed that Sarawak Ordinances sometimes delegate important powers to the Governor in Council, which means the Governor advised by the Supreme Council, the local executive body. It must also be remembered that the 1941 constitution was a novelty. It closed a century of absolute personal rule, so that the delegation of legislative power is not regarded as such an objectionable necessity as it is in sophisticated democracies.

There were two Meetings of the Council Negri, the legislative council of Sarawak, during 1947 at which twenty-two Ordinances in all were enacted. Four of these were directly concerned with the preparation of the revised edition of the Ordinances of the Colony which will be ready for publication early in 1948, and of annual supplements thereto. One, the Revised Edition of the Laws (Repeal of Obsolete Enactments) Ordinance, repealed in full fifty-four obsolete enactments and amended five others. This legislation had been contained in the "Green Book" collection of "Orders" and "Notifications" enacted before 1927 and had long been ripe for abolition.

The Chief Justice, who had been appointed Commissioner for the preparation of the revised edition, found that he could not deal satisfactorily with the miscellaneous enactments relating to public health and the protection of wild animals. Consequently new Ordinances were passed in both these respects, the Prevention of Disease Ordinance being mainly concerned with the notification of diseases and the delegation of wider powers with regard to public health to the Governor in Council so that conventional rules may be introduced bit by bit as circumstances render this practicable. It may be, however, that this legislation will prove inadequate in the near future and will have to be replaced by a comprehensive Public Health Ordinance. At the May Council Negri an Ordinance was passed making special provision with respect to the mining of radio-active minerals.

In December the principal Ordinances passed dealt with the registration of Trade Unions and the regulation of trade disputes, the regulation of "Societies," the thorough overhaul of the Customs laws, and the establishment of "Circuit Courts."

It would be wrong to think that Trade Unions had previously been illegal in Sarawak. In fact several Trade Unions were in existence prior to the Council Negri meeting and were registered as "societies." The new Ordinance transfers their control to a new official, to be styled the Registrar of Trade Unions, safeguards their funds in the conventional manner, and gives the customary protection to the Unions and their officials against being prosecuted or sued for conspiracy or tort in respect of acts done in the course of a trade dispute. Apart from the requirements regarding compulsory registration, the power of supervision given to the Registrar and the retention of a section expressly prohibiting picketing in such numbers as to be calculated to intimidate, the Ordinance is substantially in line with the English law on the subject.

The new Societies Ordinance substitutes a maximum penalty of three years' imprisonment in place of the capital sentence for managing an unlawful society but this is by no means its only liberal characteristic. Following the example of Malaya the principle of compulsory registration, accompanied by strict control and supervision, has been abolished though a provision has been retained whereby societies must notify the Registrar of their existence and furnish him with certain basic particulars.

The law relating to the Customs Department, import and export duties, and allied matters, has always been in an unsatisfactory condition in Sarawak. The new Ordinance is comprehensive. While retaining provision for the continuation, temporarily at any rate, of certain practices peculiar to Sarawak notably the rule whereby duty need not be paid until fifteen days after the goods have been delivered to the consignee or shipped for export as the case may be, the new law substantially follows conventional lines.

It has been decided that the time has come to make provision for the Courts of first instance and unlimited jurisdiction in Sarawak to be staffed by qualified lawyers. Consequently the Circuit Courts Ordinance, when it is

brought into operation, will deprive the Resident's Courts, staffed by lay administrative officers, of their civil and criminal jurisdiction under the ordinary law, and will vest it instead in the new Circuit Courts of which there will be one in each half of the Colony. The Resident's Courts will continue to exercise jurisdiction in appeals from Native Courts and also have reserved to them certain quasi-judicial functions, substantially concerned with administrative matters which are vested in them by various Ordinances.

The war-time Defence Regulations still remain in force in theory but have largely become a dead letter. It is intended to revoke them when the necessary peace-time emergency legislation, drafted this year, has been approved. One set of new rules was made under the Defence Regulations during the course of the year, viz: the Defence Regulations (Requisitioning of Rice) Rules, 1947, whereby power was taken to requisition this basic foodstuff in order to ensure its equitable distribution among the local population in the event of a serious shortage occurring.

The Schedules to the Forestry Ordinance, which prescribe inter alia the rates of royalty, were entirely revised as also were the rules made under that Ordinance.

The Defence (Trading with the Enemy) Regulations and the rules thereunder, and the Finance Regulations made under the Finance Regulations Proclamation, were amended or revoked from time to time as the case might be in accordance with Imperial policy.

New Passport Regulations, that is to say regulations concerning the entry and exit of persons to and from the Colony, were made in the second half of the year and are far more comprehensive than their predecessors.

At the end of 1947 local by-laws were revised and re-issued over most of the Colony and for the first time the levying of "assessment" on premises was put on a proper legal basis.

The year can be considered to have been an active one from the legislative point of view. There is an inevitable tendency for administrative reforms to out-run legislative capacity at the present time, and if the current pace is kept up Sarawak will have to legislate more often and more fully than is being done at present. There is still much lee-way to make up before the statute book can be deemed to be in a

satisfactory condition quite apart from the necessity of giving a legal foundation to many of the schemes connected with the Colony's development.

The drafting of the numerous statutes and extensive subsidiary legislation to which reference has been made has been in the hands of a single officer who is also, as Attorney-General, responsible for the conduct of prosecutions throughout the territory and at the same time the only source of legal advice to the government and its various departments. Steps will soon have to be taken to strengthen this department.

CHAPTER 9

Justice, Police and Prisons

Justice

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, Sarawak law is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. A revised edition of the Ordinances, has been in course of preparation throughout the year and is nearing completion as the year closes. Additional volumes containing subsidiary legislation will follow. The many indigenous tribes in the Colony have their own customary law or "adat," and in many cases native customs have been embodied in Codes. It is said that some of these codes, especially the Malay Undang-Undang and the Tusun Tunggu (or Code of Sea Dayak (Iban) Customs) are authoritative and are equivalent to statutes, but the extent to which this is so is a matter of some doubt which must eventually be resolved either by the Supreme Court or by legislation. Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts are required to apply English law "in so far as it is applicable to Sarawak having regard to native customs and local conditions."

Two sets of Courts administer Sarawak law—the ordinary Courts and the Native Courts. Both have civil and criminal jurisdiction. The inferior ordinary courts are to a large extent presided over by native magistrates and native magistrates sit in the lower Native Courts. The superior Native Courts are presided over by Europeans with native advisers. The ordinary courts have the usual powers; in civil cases the litigant has the remedies of damages, injunction and specific performance, and in criminal cases sentences of death, imprisonment, or fine may be passed subject to the usual qualifications and limitations. The Native Courts are chiefly concerned with such matters as claims to untitled land, the preservation of order in the villages, and the protection of women. The two hierarchies of Courts are defined in the Courts Ordinance and the Native Courts Ordinance respectively.

In the past the only qualified judge has been the Chief Justice who constitutes the Supreme Court. When the Circuit Courts Ordinance, 1947, comes into operation there

will be qualified Circuit Judges to whom most of the work of the Residents Courts will be transferred.

During the year under review there were few cases of special interest to European lawyers. A case of unusual interest occurred, however, in which the Supreme Court was called upon to inquire into the extent to which Chinese customary law is applicable in the Colony. The plaintiffs in this action sought proof of a will in solemn form and a declaration that the provisions of the will were invalid, in whole or in part, being contrary to Chinese customary law. On the evidence it was clear that the will must be pronounced valid so far as the formalities of execution were concerned, but the plaintiffs contended that a parent may not dispose of his property by will so as to deprive his sons of their inheritance. He has no power, it was said, to depart materially from the scheme of distribution which would be applicable upon an intestacy, except perhaps in special cases such as where there has been unfilial conduct. In a reserved judgment the Chief Justice held that the Court will apply Chinese customary law only where the custom in question is expressly regulated by a Sarawak Ordinance or by rules made under an Ordinance or where the custom is recognized, either expressly or by necessary implication, in a Sarawak Ordinance. He dealt at some length with two branches of Chinese family law which are affected—matrimonial law and the law of inheritance. It was held that on a proper construction of a local Ordinance the administrator of the estate of a person dying intestate may distribute it according to recognised law or custom (which includes Chinese Customary law), but an executor of a will must distribute the estate according to the terms of the will. The Chief Justice said: "The notion, still held by some Magistrates, that Chinese customary law is part of the law of Sarawak, must be exploded. The Courts cannot extend the field within which Chinese custom is recognised; that is the province of the legislature."

In another case the Supreme Court had to inquire into the validity of a "marriage" according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of Rome when one of the parties was already married in accordance with Hindu custom. It was held that a marriage to be valid under the Church and Civil Marriage Ordinance must be a monogamous union and a person who, according to his own personal law recognised by the laws of the Colony, is already validly married, cannot

contract a valid marriage under the Ordinance.

Police

The Sarawak Constabulary Force at the end of 1947 consisted of 6 Gazetted Officers, 18 Inspectors and 1,016 N.C.Os and men; this is somewhat below the approved strength, a shortage which has been a matter of serious concern.

Of the various causes contributing to this, one of the most important was the high rate of "casualties" since the re-occupation. In 1947 there were no less than 82 resignations and the total "casualty" figures exceeded the replacement powers of the Depot, where the instructional staff was itself in the early stages of training. That the service is not regarded as sufficiently attractive is shown by the number of resignations and the difficulty of finding recruits of the right type. It is hoped that revision of the terms of service for the Force will shortly effect a cure of this state of affairs.

As a result of the reorganisation affected during 1946, which meant that the year started with a force in being, it has been possible in the main centres to build up small Criminal Investigation Departments which have given a good account of themselves. It has also been possible to increase the numbers and improve the quality of the Depot Instructional Staff, but this has not yet had time to make itself felt outside the Depot. The Force as a whole is still below a proper standard of efficiency and is likely to remain so for some time. In the meantime, Officers-in-Charge of Sectors have been carrying on with reduced establishments and the results they have achieved are most praiseworthy.

One hundred years ago head-hunting was described as a passion amongst certain of the peoples of Sarawak. This practice, and the piracy with which it was so closely associated, was eventually suppressed and, before the outbreak of World War II, both had become things of the past. Heads still hung in "Long Houses" but they were ancient and smoke-blackened relics.

With the outbreak of war the old passion was aroused and before the Japanese surrendered several hundreds of them had lost their heads in the traditional manner. The passion to kill is more easily kindled than quenched and it would have not been surprising if those who had resumed head-hunting or for the first time experienced the excitement



Mohammedan members of the Sarawak Constabulary, led by their band, returning from the Mosque after their weekly Friday parade.

Photograph by Anna Studio

of it, had been reluctant to cease. But in fact not one case was reported during the year.

That there has, however, been a lessening in the sense of value of human life and a greater tendency to resort to violence than in pre-war years is shown by the increase in the reports of murder recorded, 12 as compared with 8 in 1940, and of robberies, 32 as compared with 4.

No organised gang of robbers is now active and a considerable number of the reports classified as robbery were of a comparatively trivial nature. It is re-assuring to note that firearms are very rarely carried for criminal purposes. Other serious crimes of violence cannot, unfortunately, be compared with those of previous years as Serious and Simple Hurt were previously grouped under one head. The number of aggravated assaults reported, 68, is not a large figure though it would probably show an increase if compared with pre-war years.

As regards offences against property, a considerable improvement is shown as compared with 1946 and 1940 for simple thefts. The decrease in thefts and thefts in dwellings was greatest in the Sibü Sector.

The principal figures are :—

<i>Years</i>	<i>Thefts and thefts in Dwellings</i>	<i>Ratio of convictions to reports</i>
1940 ...	1371	1 to 5.93
1946 ...	1653	1 to 6.52
1947 ...	1036	1 to 4.01
<i>Housebreakings</i>		
1940 ...	48	1 to 8
1946 ...	97	1 to 7.46
1947 ...	82	1 to 3.41

There appears no reason to believe that the disparity between crimes committed and crimes reported is greater than during 1946, in fact the contrary may be the case. It is possible that during 1940 a greater proportion of crime was reported, but it was a year of increasing economic stress during which comparatively high crime figures might be expected.

Undoubtedly the improved economic conditions are reflected in the striking reduction in thefts as compared with 1946 and energetic investigation rewarded by a considerable improvement in the ratio of convictions has, it is reasonable to suppose, had its effect in reducing this form of crime. Police activity is also indicated by the increase in convictions

for retention of stolen property, 37 as compared with 16 in 1946 and 6 in 1940. Preventive patrols were also stepped up during the year. As many of the thefts were of unidentifiable articles of small value the rate of convictions is high.

But whatever consolation may be drawn from the state of law and order it cannot be said that the state of efficiency of the Force as a whole is yet satisfactory. The "police activity" mentioned above means in fact the activity of a small number of individuals who have carried a far from proportionate share of the work and responsibilities of the Force.

Penal Administration

Prison administration is under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons with headquarters in Kuching. There are four main prisons, situated at Kuching, Simanggang, Sibul and Miri. There are eighteen minor gaols situated in various other parts of the country, but these are now only being used for prisoners serving terms of one month or less; all prisoners serving long sentences are transferred to the divisional prisons.

All prisons are visited monthly by visiting boards comprised of magistrates and unofficial representatives of the various communities. No organisation at present exists for dealing with the after-care of prisoners, but the prison authorities assist discharged prisoners to obtain work. An after-care society is shortly to be formed. Fares are paid by the prison authorities to prisoners returning to their homes.

The majority of the prisoners appear to be happy and contented; mainly, it is suggested, on account of the amount of liberty which is given them by working in outside parties. It affords a chance for a certain amount of self-expression, and the prisoners on the whole do not take undue or unexpected advantage of this fact.

Most prisons are understaffed and the establishment of warders small though it is was never up to full strength. This is due to the poor rate of pay, a position which it is hoped to rectify in 1948.

An attempt is now being made to give a proper training to warders at the Kuching prison, but until the right material is forthcoming, this will be a difficult undertaking.

All the prisons in the country, with the exception of those at Kuching and Sibul, are constructed of a very hard local wood known as "belian." Although old, they are generally

speaking in a good state of repair. The prison at Sibu is the only one of fairly modern design.

The total number of prisoners admitted during 1947 was 629, of whom 622 were males and 7 females. There were 8 executions during the year. The sentences imposed were as follows :—

Under 1 month	...	...	88
1 month and less than 3 months	...	...	310
3 months and less than 6 months	...	...	79
6 months and less than 12 months	...	...	67
12 months and less than 18 months	...	...	19
18 months or over	...	...	66

The age groups of prisoners committed were as set out below :—

Under 16 years of age	...	...	24
16—20 years of age	...	...	94
20—25 years of age	...	...	121
25—50 years of age	...	...	362
Over 50 years of age	...	...	28

Recidivism

At the end of the year there were twenty-one recidivists out of two hundred and five prisoners serving sentences in the Colony. This appears to be an average figure. There are very few confirmed criminals who are continually in and out of gaol.

Juvenile Offenders

During the year arrangements were made to house juvenile offenders at a camp made for them at Rantau Panjang Agricultural Station in the Third Division. Besides this, lads were kept at the Agricultural Department Dairy Farm at Kuching.

Classification of prisoners

As far as possible first offenders and habitual criminals are segregated, but this cannot always be done owing to the type of buildings and the inadequacy of staff.

Spiritual welfare

At Kuching and Sibu representatives of the various denominations visit the gaols weekly. Applications have been

made in the Kuching gaol by four Dayaks to become Christians in the past few months.

General welfare and education

At Sibu various classes run by the prisoners themselves have been a success. These classes were for reading, writing, simple arithmetic, etc. As a result of these classes several prisoners have become literate.

In the Kuching prison classes are held nightly for the illiterates. This is undertaken voluntarily by an officer of the Education Department and a Dayak student teacher. Prisoners are allowed to undertake basket and mat making in their leisure time, the money obtained from the sale of these articles being credited to the prisoner's account. Great interest is taken in the flower and vegetable gardens at the Sibu prison. At Kuching an attempt is also being made to establish a flower garden in addition to the vegetable gardens in the precincts of the prison.

Health and Diet

The general health of the prisoners has been good during the year. Hospital attendants visit the gaols daily. A stock of medicines is kept in the gaols and simple dressings are carried out by the prisoners under expert supervision. There have been no deaths during the year.

Remission

Remission of sentence for good behaviour is granted to prisoners sentenced to imprisonment exceeding one month. The amount of remission granted to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth and to those serving over one year one-fourth of the sentence. Female prisoners serving over one year may be granted remission of one-third of their sentence.

CHAPTER 10

Public Utilities

Electricity Supplies

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. The Company was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibn and Mukah. The Government holds a little over one-half of shares, Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore being the other shareholders and General Managers. Since taking over, the policy of the Company has been a progressive one of modernising the existing stations and installing generating plant in the smaller townships.

When the country was re-occupied by the Allies it was found that two generating sets in Kuching had been removed, the Mukah and Bintulu Stations almost destroyed and that the remaining plant was in a very bad condition due to neglect and lack of maintenance. During 1945-46 the Company was busily engaged on the work of restoring these stations and maintaining a gradually improving standard of supply to the public. Plans were made for extensions of service and orders were placed for plant and materials.

Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, work on rehabilitation and extensions during the year under review has been slow. Five 25 K.W. generating sets were installed in the smaller townships; a further three are to be installed in the near future.

In Kuching a new 400 K.W. set was partly erected and is awaiting further engine parts and electrical plant, which are not expected to arrive for another six months. The reconditioning of the existing 220 K.W. set was also held up for engine parts but it has been maintained in service, although running uneconomically.

At Miri the lighting supply prior to the war was taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited plant. The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company has now installed equipment at Miri and commenced the supply of a restricted service. The

Company plans to install a full supply as soon as the necessary plant can be procured.

The Government has granted a ten year extension of the Company's licences which will now expire in 1967.

Water Supplies

Kuching

The source of supply is at Matang a mountain of 3,000 feet about ten miles west of Kuching. The quality of the water is excellent and does not require treatment. The collection system consists of four diversion dams in mountain streams and one small impounding reservoir which are at a sufficient height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The slope of the ground is in general very steep and investigations over a period of years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level. During heavy rain the valves on the pipes leading from the diversion dams are closed and the supply taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching. The pipeline crosses the Sarawak River by a 700 foot span suspension bridge which was erected for this purpose.

The distribution system consists of thirty miles of pipe. The service reservoirs consist of one 2-million gallon pressed steel tank, two concrete service basins and one reinforced concrete water tower.

During very dry spells the run-off at Matang is insufficient and recourse has to be had to water pumped from two old low level reservoirs in Kuching. This pumped water is chlorinated.

The normal consumption is about one million gallons per day and the number of services connected about 2,400 comprised as follows :—

Fire Hydrants	...	121
Public Stand Pipes	...	159
Private Services	...	1,958
Government Quarters	...	70
Government Services	...	92
		<hr/>
		2,400
		<hr/>

Water meters are fixed to all private services. The charge for water is 45 cents per thousand gallons with a minimum charge of \$1 per month. The ships plying between Singapore and Kuching take large quantities of water in Kuching in view of its quality and low cost—45 cents per ton.

The main pipeline from Matang is a steel pipe which was laid in 1926. This pipe is badly corroded and pitted and was due for replacement in 1942. The new pipes were ordered in 1946, but had not yet been received at the end of 1947.

The two million gallons steel tank which is showing signs of corrosion has, of necessity, been kept in service throughout the year. Part expenditure for the construction of an additional tank has been approved for 1948.

The repair and rehabilitation of existing services and the provision of new services was greatly hampered by the difficulties in obtaining supplies of galvanised pipes and fittings.

Sibu

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation at the beginning of the year. Improvements and additions were made during the year, notably the erection of a high level tank to obviate direct pumping into the mains, and of a temporary additional booster station.

The mode of operation involved pumping from the Rejang River to the purification plant. After purification the water is pumped to a storage tank whence it flows by gravity $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sibu bazaar.

At the end of the year water was supplied continuously from 7 a.m. to approx. 8.30 p.m. but not all consumers had a continuous supply owing to the inadequate sizes of the distribution mains. It is hoped to improve and extend the system in 1948 so that a 24 hour supply can be maintained.

Mukah

The prewar supply was not satisfactory. The whole area is low-lying and most of the water is brackish. A preliminary survey was made of the site for the proposed new waterworks and pipeline but progress with this scheme is, like many others, seriously handicapped by shortage of engineering staff.

Bintulu

The Bintulu water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos Pressure Pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000 gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" asbestos pipe acts as a distributing main. Essential maintenance was carried out during the year but no major reconstruction has been possible.

Miri

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. water main under prewar arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply houses on Tanjong Lobang.

Sarikei and Binatang

The water supply for Sarikei and Binatang has been maintained by the use of a water barge of 36,000 gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu.

The installation of a pipe water supply for these two towns presents many problems. The whole area is low-lying and river and surface water is brackish.

Other Stations

Water piping is still in extremely short supply and it has in most cases only been possible to make improvisations with a view to maintaining service from existing small installations.

CHAPTER 11

Communications

Water

The rivers and sea afford the principal means of communication. Steamship services ply between Kuching and coastal ports and also serve Sibü and other Rejang River ports. In addition numerous powered small craft, mainly Chinese owned, carry passengers and cargo up and down the various rivers. Smaller boats, often driven by outboard motors, make their way far into the interior.

In the early part of the year irregular but sufficient services between Sarawak and Singapore were maintained by the Sarawak Steamship Company and the Straits Steamship Company. At times three or four vessels would call within a period of as many days and then there might be a long wait before the next vessel arrived. By the middle of the year, however, the situation had improved, with regular weekly vessels from Singapore to both Sibü and Kuching.

Ships going from Singapore to and from Miri ceased to call at Kuching, going direct from Singapore to Miri and returning direct to Singapore. The omission of Kuching as a port of call was a serious handicap, there being only a few Chinese launches on the route and one 120 ft. vessel belonging to the Sarawak Steamship Company which went coastwise from Kuching to Miri and Marudi.

Over and above the regular weekly service, vessels called at Kuching and Sibü with rice from Bangkok usually via North Borneo ports. The tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Sarawak from and to foreign ports during the year was 1,047,317 tons and 1,005,997 tons, respectively.

In December, the first ship arrived at Rejang to load timber with limited deck passenger accommodation, which made calls at Hongkong, and Manila. This service is expected to be a monthly one.

Coastal trade and communications were maintained by a fleet of locally built and owned small craft ranging from 15 to 50 tons. Very few of the owners attempt to maintain

regular services but run their vessels where trade or passengers offer. Fairly regular weekly services were however being maintained between Kuching and First, Second and Third Division ports and fortnightly runs to coastal Third and Fourth Division ports. There was no regular communication between Kuching and the Fifth Division. Passengers and goods had either to make their way overland to Miri and contact coastal shipping there, or proceed via Labuan.

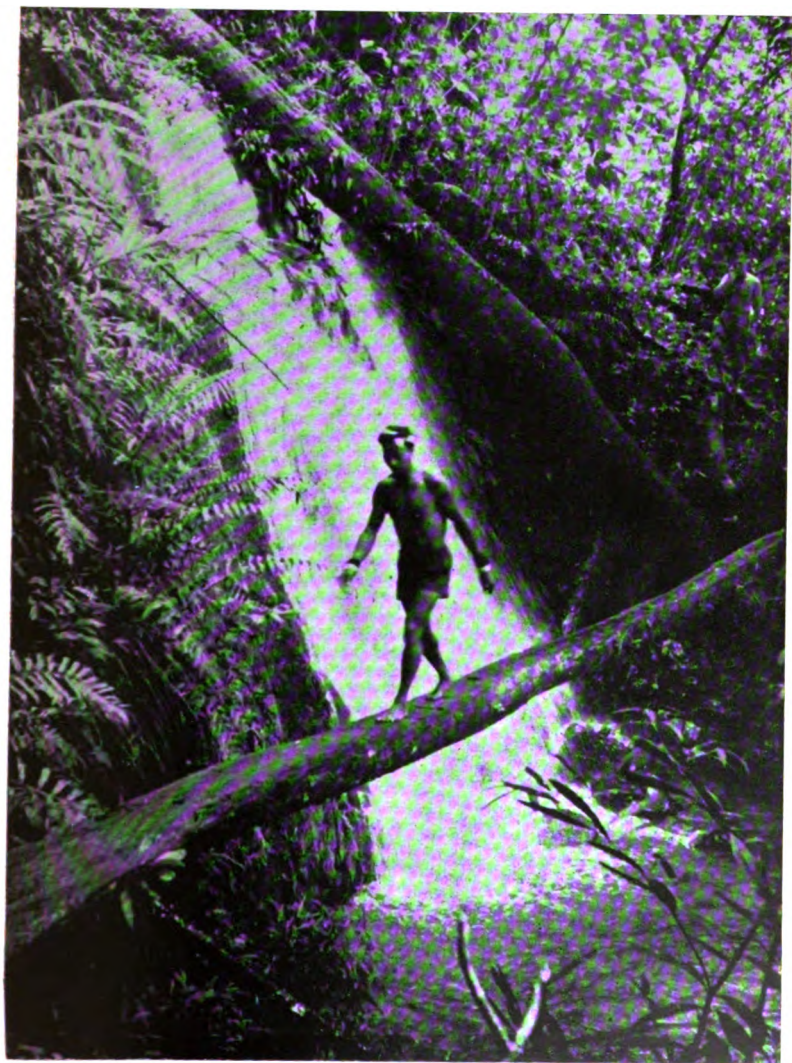
There were no regular runs maintained by the Government with the exception of one vessel of 150 tons which maintained a fairly regular service between Kuching and Bintulu, sometimes via Sibuluan, and supplemented the service maintained by the Sarawak Steamship Company.

Of the total of 26 Government vessels at least five were always under repair. Sixteen were purely Administrative launches run to the requirements of the Residents of the Divisions where they were stationed. Of the remainder, six were supply vessels and when not required for Government work, were chartered out. One small tug and one small powered lighter were stationed at Miri to assist discharge and loading of vessels calling at the port, and two prewar launches which required new engines, were laid up at Kuching.

The most serious shipping casualty during the year was the stranding of the T.S.S. "Matang." This vessel, when on a voyage from Labuan to Kuching, ran ashore on the rocks on Santubong Peninsula during heavy rain. She was refloated the next day but her bottom was so badly holed that she was in danger of sinking in deep water and had to be run ashore on a sandy beach near Buntal. A salvage vessel with full equipment was sent from Singapore and after a fortnight's work, making temporary patches, the "Matang" was refloated and towed to Singapore for repair.

One Sarawak owned vessel, an ex-Japanese wooden craft of 80 tons, broke down at sea midway between Singapore and Rejang. She had been adrift for eight days before news of her reached Kuching and when finally found and towed to Sibuluan had been adrift for eleven days.

One Chinese junk of about 50 tons was wrecked on Mukah Bar and a couple of smaller coastal launches were lost—one on Igan Bar and one off Miri.



Batang bridging a torrent on the track up the Pelagus Rapids.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Air

Prior to the Japanese occupation landing grounds suitable for the operation of lighter types of aircraft existed at Kuching and Miri.

On the resumption of Civil Administration the Kuching landing ground, which lies 7 miles to the south of the town, had one metallised strip of approximately 1,000 yards length and 50 yards width, in almost serviceable condition. The remainder of the area was dotted with bomb holes and quite unserviceable. A minimum of work sufficient to maintain this strip to 1,016 yards in length and 35 yards width in serviceable condition, has been carried out during the year, but otherwise no constructional work has been undertaken.

A scheme has been approved for the construction of a runway and necessary buildings for an airport for scheduled air services. The work will be carried out during 1948.

Regular air communication between Singapore and Kuching has been maintained by Sunderland flying boats of the Royal Air Force, using the Sarawak River at Pending as their landing area. Land based aircraft have not been used except for survey flights by Malayan Airways, and the Royal Air Force. On these occasions the aircraft have successfully landed on and taken off from the existing strip at the 7th mile.

Railways

Until the year 1939 a metre gauge railway was operated by the Public Works Department between Kuching and a point 10 miles to the south of the town for the transport of crushed stone from quarries to Kuching. On resumption of Civil Administration the years of neglect had rendered the three steam locomotives useless for further service and the track was in very bad condition.

No repairs or maintenance of the track have been carried out during the year but a new diesel locomotive has been ordered and the track is to be repaired.

Roads and Vehicles

There has never been an extensive road system in the Colony. The main centres of population are not connected by roads and communications between them have been by river and sea transport.

Except in the Kuching area unsurfaced earth roads are the general rule. These connect outlying areas with the centres of population. Light motor vehicles are used on this class of road where possible, but their use is of necessity restricted and upkeep is frequently heavy.

In 1928 construction of a road from Kuching to Simanggang was projected—a distance of approximately 120 miles—and by the outbreak of war 40 miles had been completed, opening up valuable agricultural country.

At the time of re-occupation this road was in an impassable condition and all equipment was missing. Throughout 1946 work was carried out to re-establish the road and this work has been continued during 1947. As a result traffic has been able to use the road to Serian at the 39th mile without restriction throughout the year, even during the latter months when continuous heavy rainfall has been the rule. Trucks up to 3 or 4 tons are in use on this road. The metalling and regrading work is to be continued during 1948 and by the end of the year the road should be ready for surfacing.

Approximate mileage of roads for the whole Colony is 460 classified as follows:—

1. Unimproved earth and non-surfaced	...	197	miles
2. Improved earth, sand, clay, gravel	...	116	„
3. Waterbound Macadam	...	80	„
4. Macadam surface treated and penetration	...	66	„
5. Cement concrete	...	1	„
Total		460	„

In addition, there are about 250 miles of public paths, maintained by the Public Works Department.

The roads in Kuching are surfaced either with reinforced concrete or bitumen. A limited amount of re-surfacing work was accomplished during the year, but much remains to be done, the bad weather during the last three months of the year having accelerated the deterioration started by neglect during the occupation. Adequate supplies of asphalt are expected during 1948 and this should greatly assist the work of rehabilitation.

In other parts of the country general maintenance work was carried out but no major road construction was under-

taken. Numerous bridges were reconstructed and some old roads cleared and re-opened.

The situation regarding supplies of new motor vehicles improved greatly during the year, and by the end of the year the demand for private vehicles and certain types of commercial vehicles was being met with little delay. The lighter type of commercial vehicle, 29—30 cwt. capacity was still in short supply, and this has caused some inconvenience as the roads generally are not suitable for the heavier 2½—4 ton types which were readily obtainable.

Post and Telegraphs

There were 36 Post Offices and 19 Wireless Telegraph stations in operation during the year. Postal, telegraph and telephone facilities are extended from time to time to meet the requirements of the administration and the public demand. Post Offices are established at all administrative centres and wireless and telegraph stations at the more important centres and in isolated stations. Where possible outlying districts are linked by line telephone to the nearest Administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

The frequency and volume of mails increased during the year due to more regular shipping and the recovery of business generally. The parcel post service showed a large increase in the number of parcels handled. Telegraphic traffic also increased considerably.

Telephones

There were twelve telephone exchanges in operation during the year. The total mileage of telephone lines was approximately 617 in aerial and underground routes and 1,550 on open wire routes. Telephone communication was of a poor standard owing to the very old telephone instruments in use. Attempts to obtain replacements for these instruments were unsuccessful.

PUBLIC WORKS

A large part of the expenditure approved for public works in 1947 was spent on rehabilitation and in the construction of new buildings mainly quarters, barracks and offices.

In Kuching one new block of police barracks comprising

ten married quarters was erected whilst five blocks of 6 married quarters consisting of reconstructed buildings were erected at the Police Depot.

Two new blocks of 8 quarters for the accommodation of lepers were completed at the Leper Settlement. A new wireless building of brick and concrete was erected at the Kuching Station. This replaces a building destroyed by bombing at the time of the re-occupation.

New quarters of detached and semi-detached type were built in the General Hospital compound for the accommodation of hospital assistants and a temporary annex to the Government Rest House was provided to give overflow accommodation.

The work of repair and rehabilitation of offices, public buildings, markets and quarters including replacement of electrical installations, progressed satisfactorily during the year.

A new reinforced concrete open market was constructed in Market Street at a cost of \$15,900.

In the Second Division the major work was the rebuilding of the station at Lubok Antu which was destroyed by fire at the time of the re-occupation. Here a new "fort," to be named Fort Arundell, has been constructed. This is a two storey building in concrete providing accommodation on the ground floor for administrative and police offices and on the first floor a Court Room, and living accommodation for the District Officer. In addition to this building, two Junior Service detached quarters, one dispensary, one Native Officer's quarters and two 8 room blocks of police barracks were almost completed at the end of the year.

The works carried out in the Third Division during 1947 were probably greater than has been achieved in any previous year, particularly in the case of buildings, for which the need was most urgent. Competition for labour and materials was keen, due to the large amount of private building being undertaken in the Division, but the contractors proved ingenious and industrious, and the completion of so much construction is largely due to their enterprise. The sawmills proved capable of meeting the abnormal demands for timber, but the quality suffered the usual defects due to the lack of adequate seasoning.

Rehabilitation of Government buildings throughout the Division was carried out on a large scale with improvement most noticeable in the Coast and Sibul districts. The rehabilitation programme will be completed in 1948.

A new Government station was constructed at Song, across the Rejang river from the old site, which has now been abandoned. A Government Office including quarters for visiting officers, Junior Service Quarters and Native Officers' Quarters were handed over to the Administration in December. These were all of timber construction. In addition visiting quarters for Junior Service and police patrols and a Dayak Rest House were under construction. A Customs godown was completed.

A new floating wharf was constructed at Sibul, but major repairs to the timber wharves were delayed by a holdup in the supply of suitable timber. At Sarikei a floating pontoon wharf with steel walkway approach, at the site of the concrete wharf which collapsed during the occupation, was constructed. It has proved successful but requires an additional length of pontoon, which will be provided in 1948.

The Fourth Division was badly hit by enemy and Allied action, particularly at Miri and Bintulu. Here again a pressing need has been to provide quarters for government employees and much progress has been made in this direction.

In the Fifth Division activity was mainly concentrated on the reconstruction of neglected buildings and the erection of new buildings. Amongst the new works completed at Limbang were police barracks, Junior Service quarters, Forest Checking Station, Vegetable Market, Pork Market, Boat House, Dayak-Murut Rest House and Padi Store.

Although the full programme of works projected for 1947 was not completed, good progress was made despite the delays and shortages in the supply of materials and equipment. The most serious handicap was the lack of adequate technical staff. Every effort was made to remedy this, but without success. All branches of the existing staff have cheerfully accepted the extra burden imposed on them, and are to be complimented on the results achieved. There is a large programme to be tackled in 1948 and it is hoped that some additional technical staff will then be available.

CHAPTER 12

Science and Arts

The Museum

The *Sarawak Gazette* of 26th March, 1878, gave notice that "His Highness the Rajah intends on a future day to establish a museum for all specimens of interest in this country, for which a suitable building will be constructed at Kuching by the Government." "Arms, boats, cloths, woods, horns and skulls of deer, and other animals, old fashioned gold work, old china or pottery, paddles, minerals, fibres, oil, carvings, ornaments and the relics of any superstition, either in wood or stone" were mentioned as a guide to the type of collection required.

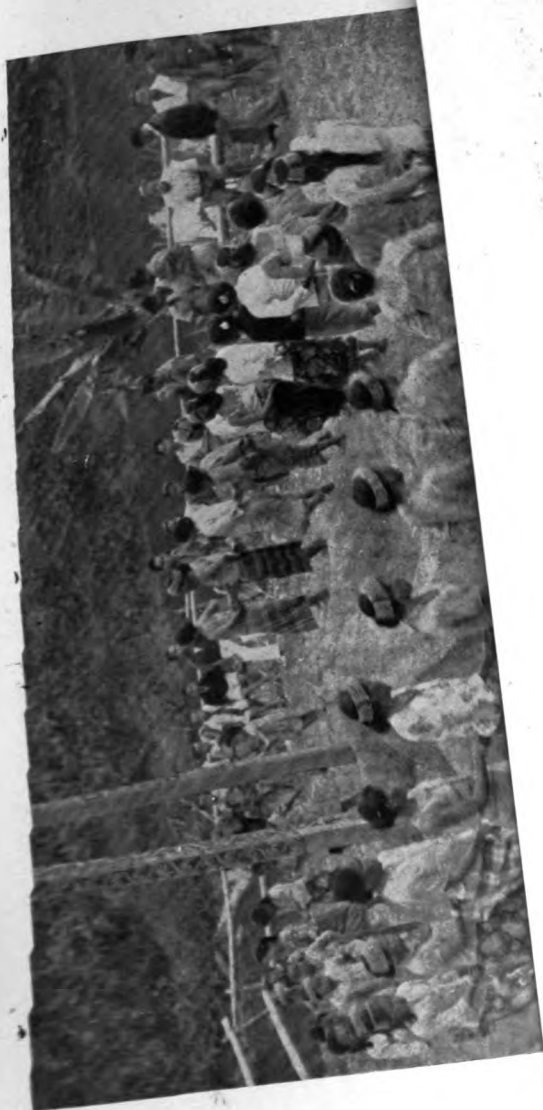
In a notice dated 27th May, 1878, R. V. Awdry, Private Secretary to the Rajah, was authorised to receive contributions for the proposed Museum. The first items, sent by Mr. C. C. de Crespigny from Mukah, were acknowledged on 5th June, 1878, but the scheme more or less remained in abeyance.

The collections were first housed in the Astana, and later in a room in the Clock Tower in the Government building.

The idea was revived again towards the end of 1886, when it was decided to purchase H. Brooke-Low's collection to form a nucleus for the museum. This was placed in a temporary building over the market place, and was opened to the public by the Rajah on 30th October, 1886. The present building was begun in 1889 and opened on 4th August, 1891. Since then the building has been added to, improved and renovated, the last important building operations taking place in 1940.

Since its inception there have been eight full-time curators, although there have been times during wars and for other reasons when the supervision of the Museum, much to its detriment, was perforce in the hands of administrative officers as an additional duty.

It is worth noting that for most of the time of the Japanese occupation of Kuching the Museum was under the



direction of a sympathetic Japanese curator. For that reason on the re-occupation by the Allied Forces it was found that the Museum had suffered very little damage and remarkably little looting. With the help of the Commander of the Australian Military Forces a number of gold ornaments were recovered in Bau, Upper Sarawak, and in spite of the neglect occasioned by three and a half years of war the Museum was opened to the public within a few days of the relief of the town.

The building is divided into two floors. On the ground floor are the zoological collections and on the upper floor the ethnological collections.

The war, and the subsequent changes of Government have not made it possible for many new collections to be made yet, but it is expected that the Curator who at the close of the year was on an expedition in the interior will bring back with him a large and valuable collection of articles principally connected with the Kelabits in the far-away Bareo country.

It is noticeable that of late the Museum has been attracting more visitors, especially among younger people, than before. Arrangements are being made to conduct parties of school children round the Museum.

Literature

An issue of the Sarawak Museum Journal, stopped since 1941, was in the course of preparation at the end of the year.

The Sarawak Government Library, which is attached to the Museum, suffered some serious losses during the war, a number of valuable and rare books on Sarawak being lost. Some of these have now been replaced. The library as a whole is not of great value and steps are being taken to replenish it and bring it up to date.

Socio-Economic Survey

Dr. Edmund Leach visited Sarawak from June to October, 1947. During this period he travelled extensively throughout the country making plans for a comprehensive Socio-Economic Survey which will follow later.

PART III

CHAPTER 1

Geography

General description

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 50,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with Dutch West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of

the government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Vegetation

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties) covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah Palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable for ocean-going ships for 160 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind the river banks rise above the normal High Water Level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional



periods of calm. It is the season of the North-East Monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area Miri to Labuan, most of the rain falls between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 132.81 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 23.81 inches and minimum 3.26. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, where there is generally a swell from north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

KUCHING the capital of Sarawak stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, a large Malay riverside Kampong and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are found on the South bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

SIBU the second town of Sarawak is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibu is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

MIRI, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the South-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, and still presents a sorry aspect though reconstruction is taking place. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lay along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (Headquarters of Fifth Division), Simanggang (Headquarters of Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

CHAPTER 2

History

Sarawak though known by name through the visits of such explorers as Pigafetta to Brunei in 1521 (and of Gorge de Menezes in 1526 and Gomaro Pereir in 1530) and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator, begins its history as an integral State from the first landing of James Brooke in August, 1839.

It was then a dependency of the Brunei Sultanate. Though possessed of a measure of independence, evidence which exists to-day shows how frequently throughout its history it had been engulfed by outside invaders.

Traces of early Chinese occupation are to be found, and relics of the Hindu Javan invasion which made Brunei a vassal of the Majapahit Empire can still be identified among the Land Dayaks. The Islamic religion came to the Malays through the Arabs, and later still the Sea Dayak or Iban arrived, possibly from Sumatra.

When James Brooke landed, Makota the Sultan's representative had goaded and oppressed both Malays and Land Dayaks into revolt, and the Sultan had sent his uncle Rajah Muda Hassim, the Bendahara of Brunei, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. The story of how James Brooke returned in 1840, restored order to a troubled country, and eventually deposed Makota from the Governorship is well known. He was publicly installed in 1840 as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This however is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

The story of the next few years is one of continuous action to put an end to piracy and headhunting, often with the assistance of Her Majesty's ships, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance.

It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. The death of the first

Rajah in 1868 left behind a country paternally governed with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between Ruler and ruled.

Charles Brooke was proclaimed Rajah on August 3rd 1868. Though outbursts of Dayak headhunting were still fairly frequent, the country was beginning to prosper and the second Rajah continued to enlarge his territory, and in 1887 was recognized as an independent Ruler by the British Government.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued, and pacified. The second Rajah built upon his uncle's foundation with such conspicuous success that between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320, and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke succeeded in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Headhunting as a result of tireless efforts was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941 the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a Centenary gesture the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated the absolute powers of the Rajah and put the people's feet on the first stage of the road to democratic independence.

Then came the Japanese avalanche and years of oppression, misery, hunger, sickness, from which Sarawak at last emerged on September 11th, 1945, with the arrival of the Australian Forces.

Cynical and callous neglect and the ruthless subordination of the people to the whims of the Japanese displayed their results on all sides. Social services and communications had been disrupted, education was almost non-existent, health precautions were ignored, and sickness and malnutrition were spread abroad in the land. There was an almost complete lack of medicines with which to treat the prevailing diseases, most of the people were in rags and their morale was deplorable.

The Military Administration worked hard, but it was evident to the Rajah that greater resources, and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a shred of its former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown and a Bill to effect this was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order in Council the State became a British Colony on 1st July, 1946.

The Colony is making steady progress towards recovery from the effects of the war and enemy occupation. The various Departments of Government are being strengthened and re-organised with a view to providing the community with the higher standard of social and other services required by modern conditions. Measures have been initiated to develop the country's natural resources, diversify its economy and improve the standard of living of its people. The first steps now being taken on the road that leads to self-government are detailed in the following Chapter.

CHAPTER 3

Administration

After one hundred years of autocratic rule by the three Brooke Rajahs, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke in 1941 divested himself of his autocratic authority and granted a constitution to Sarawak.

This constitution granted legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri and executive authority to the Supreme Council. The Council Negri was first established in 1867 but was then merely a body of European and Malay officials who met triennially under the chairmanship of the Rajah to hear a report on the events and progress since the last meeting.

The Supreme Council was also a long established body but had little actual responsibility and authority prior to the setting-up of the Constitution. A Committee of Administration had for some time past been the real government of the country. It was an advisory body on whose advice the Rajah usually acted.

On the 1st of July, 1946, Sarawak became a British Colony. By Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to these bodies in 1941.

Each native community has its own code of customary law which is observed as part of the law of Sarawak. Native Chieftains and village headmen have powers under these codes to impose small fines in matters connected with local custom. In all cases appeal lies to a Magistrate's Court.

The Malay code of laws known as the Undang Undang is based on Islamic law and is administered by Malay officials, though here also an appeal lies to a Court.

Sarawak is divided into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. Each Resident is



Maloh mother and child in festival costume. There are two small Maloh communities of silversmiths on the Upper Rejang but they are immigrants from the Kapuas River in Dutch Borneo.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

a First Class Magistrate with full legal powers. The District Officers are Second Class Magistrates, the Senior Native Officers Third Class and the more Junior Fourth Class Magistrates. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers, from as much routine office work as possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war however the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Native Authorities with their own Native Treasuries. Each Native Authority will be responsible for the management of its own Native Treasury and will employ one or more competent individuals, preferably local men of the same racial origin, to do the accounting and clerical work. The main items of expenditure to be met by the Native Treasuries will be the salaries, allowances, uniforms, etc., of the Native Authorities and village headmen and of any clerical, treasury or other staff employed by the Native Authority. The Native Authority will also be responsible for the primary vernacular schools in its area. Most of these items of expenditure are at present met from the revenues of the Colony and included in the Estimates of Expenditure.

The normal revenues of a Native Treasury will consist of the tax paid by the natives under the jurisdiction of the Native Authority concerned, of the fines, and fees of the Native Courts and of such other items as may be approved by Government. It will be necessary, however, to supplement its revenues by an annual grant from the Central Government in the early stages.

At the end of the year five Native Authorities had been established and were ready to function. District and Divisional Advisory Councils have also been established on as representative a basis as possible throughout the Colony in order to provide a recognised and ready means of consulting the people and enabling them through their representatives to express their views on all matters affecting their welfare and progress. The function of these Councils is at present purely advisory and they have no statutory authority; they will provide the training ground for inter-racial co-operation.

Racial representation on these Councils is kept roughly approximate to the strength of the racial elements in the District or Division and every effort is made to see that all races are represented. Members are appointed by the Government but are for the most part selected for appointment by means of a system of election.

The scheme, if found by experiment to be practicable and acceptable, will provide a network of elected and racially representative local authorities in each District vested by statute with limited executive and financial powers. The local authorities will elect representatives to an inter-racial District Advisory Council, where they will be able to represent the views of the people to the District Officer representing the central Government. The District Council will elect an appropriate number of its members to the Divisional Council, from which in its turn will in due course be elected the unofficial members on the central legislative body, the Council Negri. In course of time, as better standards of education and living permit, a wider extension of the franchise will no doubt be possible.



The wife of a Chinese rubber planter at work in her kitchen.
Overhead hang smoked sheets of rubber.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

CHAPTER 4

Weights and Measures

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tabil	=	1 1/3 ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	=	1 1/3 lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	=	133 1/3 lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	=	5333 1/3 lbs.
1 Chhun	=	1.19/40 inches.
10 Chhuns	=	1 Chhek = 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	=	108 stacked cubic feet.

CHAPTER 5

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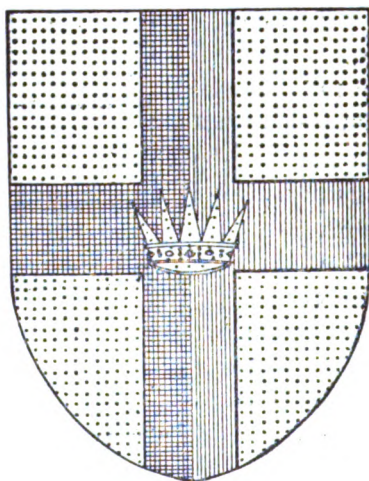
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A party of Dayaks taking rubber to the local

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(With acknowledgments to Hedda Morrison)

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Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

PART I

Sarawak is still and will be for the next year or two in the preliminary stages of its development programme, the stage of survey and experiment, of making good the damage done in war, of organising, strengthening and equipping the various departments of Government and of training the necessary staff to carry out their allotted tasks. It is to these unspectacular but essential tasks that the Government devoted its energies and the funds available to it, both from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds and from local revenues, during 1948, in the confident expectation that they will yield ample dividends in the future in the increasing prosperity and well-being of the people.

The development of new fields of production and the opening up of new land is inevitably a long term proposition. With financial assistance under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act the Government has instituted surveys, and schemes have been prepared for the development of agricultural, fishery, forest and mineral resources. Attention has also been paid to the development of social services with the object of building up these services to a standard which may reasonably be assumed to be one which the Colony will be able to maintain when its resources increase.

The threat to peace and good order in all countries of South East Asia could not be ignored. This has meant the provision of disproportionate sums of money for internal security, but with the unsettled conditions prevailing to-day this course has been inevitable.

There has been considerable improvement in the financial position. At the beginning of 1948 a deficit of \$1,473,299 was anticipated; the revised estimates show a revenue of \$15,506,080 and an expenditure of \$12,670,878, involving a surplus on the year's operations of \$2,835,202. These revised figures represent a substantial increase in revenue over the

original estimate (\$4,091,404) and very little difference in the approved estimates of expenditure.

The increase in revenue is in the main derived from customs duties which at the close of the year had yielded over \$2½ million more than the sum originally estimated.

The revised estimates of expenditure show a decrease of \$217,000 despite the expenditure of a sum of approximately \$1,300,000 on account of arrears of salaries. The comparatively low scales of salaries of the public service were forcing many members of it into unavoidable debt. A Commission under the Chairmanship of Sir Harry Trusted charged with the task of investigating the question of salaries and other conditions of service in the three Borneo territories reported early in the year. The revised salary scales adopted after careful consideration of the Commission's report were ante-dated to the 1st of July, 1946, the date upon which Sarawak became a Crown Colony.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for 1948 was \$270,020,772 as compared with \$175,393,280 for 1947. Exports exceeded imports by \$72,481,002.

Exports of petroleum were considerably higher in 1948. Exports of rubber and timber also increased and, stimulated by a high price, there was a record export of sago flour.

Trade during the first half of the year was brisk but the drop in the price of rubber, with its resultant effect on the purchasing power of the population, caused the bazaar trade to slacken considerably in the latter half of the year.

The supply position during the year has been satisfactory. There has been a marked decrease in the demand for imported rice, as compared with previous years. The basic rice ration has been maintained at 20 lbs. per person per mensem, with a supplementary 10 lbs. per person to heavy and special workers.

Substantial progress was made during the year in the development of Local Government. Local Authorities have been constituted with jurisdiction over some 65,000 people. The Authorities so far constituted are all Sea Dayak Authorities but plans for the establishment of Local Authorities in 1949 include Melanau and Malay Authorities

and a mixed Malay and Chinese Authority. This last represents perhaps the most interesting political experiment this territory has yet seen, and upon the success of this and similar mixed Authorities which it is hoped to establish in the near future, will ultimately depend the success of efforts made to establish a form of Government in which racial differences disappear and the several races work together and are bound together by the common link of citizenship of Sarawak.

The financial position of the Local Authorities and the procedure of the Local Authorities were studied in detail. The weakness of the existing Authorities is that with only a small proportion of their revenues deriving from direct taxes and other sources immediately controlled by them, and with this source supplemented by a Government grant related to their liabilities for local education and any other services they might undertake, there is limited opportunity for development of a sense of financial responsibility. It is not at present possible for Local Authorities to finance extensive social services unless subsidised by Government grants, but it has been decided that grants will in future years be proportionate to the taxes collected by the Authorities. The Authorities will, in return for these grants, be required to assume increasing responsibility for new social services or services at present financed by the Central Government and, where possible, to increase their own direct revenues to this end. The system of financial control in Local Authorities was also examined in detail during the year and revised rules, designed to provide the greatest degree of local control compatible with the proper management of public funds, were prepared and approved.

Through these Local Authorities, which are composed of their own representatives on the spot, it is confidently hoped that the people at large will be encouraged to take an even greater share in the responsibility of government and will be ready (as indeed they have in some areas already shown themselves to be) to shoulder greater financial burdens when they know that the money which they contribute is being spent by themselves upon objects which they themselves desire.

Agriculture lies at the very basis of Sarawak's economy and continued efforts have been made by the Department of

Agriculture to develop the country's resources in this respect.

The examination of data collected in the preliminary stages of the Soil Survey has emphasised the extent to which Sarawak is dependent for its locally-produced rice supplies upon the produce of dry padi farming on steep hill sides, and the alarming rate at which, as a result, the hills are being denuded of their forests and are becoming eroded. The preliminary figures now available suggest that the continuance of dry padi farming in its present form and on its present scale may have disastrous effects on the economy of the Colony within the next three or four generations. This state of affairs has been receiving the close attention of the Department of Agriculture.

The preliminary figures obtained from the survey also suggest that, though there are no vast reserves of wet padi land in Sarawak, intensive cultivation of existing and potential wet padi land could probably produce regularly a sufficient "subsistence" ration of rice for Sarawak's present population.

In order to improve the productivity of the wet padi lands plans are being made for controlled drainage and irrigation schemes. An experienced engineer of the Malayan Drainage and Irrigation Department visited Sarawak towards the end of the year to give specialised advice on projects under consideration.

Experiments in mechanical cultivation have also progressed steadily and valuable experience has been gained.

The Batu Lintang Teacher Training Centre and School was opened on the 1st July, housed in temporary buildings, and is making satisfactory progress. This has filled one of the Colony's most urgent educational requirements.

There has been a marked increase in enrolments in all sections of the school system; the number of pupils in Mission schools has increased by about 20% and in Chinese schools by more than 12%. The newly-formed Local Authorities have shown a keen interest in education development and there has been no slackening of the demand for education throughout the country.

A Sea Dayak student from the Batu Lintang Centre was appointed to the post of Assistant in the study of the Iban language at the School of African and Oriental Studies and



A Sea Dayak couple at Engkilili.

Photograph by K. F. Wong

proceeded to the United Kingdom in September. An increased number of Sarawak Government scholarships were awarded during the year and Sarawak students from the Agricultural, Forestry, Education, Lands and Surveys and Medical Departments are now attending courses of training in the Federation of Malaya and in Singapore.

Two travelling dispensaries which were provided under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme commenced operation in 1948. One operates from Sibu on the Rejang River and the other on the Sarawak and Samarahan Rivers. These boats take medical treatment regularly to areas previously unvisited by Medical staff and are greatly appreciated by the people. Much experience has been gained which will be invaluable in the operation of the full scheme which provides for 16 of these travelling dispensaries.

Considerable progress has been made in surveying the fishery resources of the coast of Sarawak. The Fishery Survey Officer, with the assistance of the Master Fisherman, has fitted out a motor fishing vessel for working Danish Seine nets.

A Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed in March, 1948, and left Sarawak for a course of study in co-operation in England, Wales and Cyprus. He also visited Malaya and Ceylon and arrived back in Sarawak in December. Two local officers also visited Malaya for training at the Kuala Lumpur School of Co-operation. The new Department will come into operation in 1949 and will, it is hoped, play an important part in bringing increased prosperity to large sections of the community.

Efforts have been continued to strengthen the Civil Service, with some success. There are still however several vacancies outstanding and the Medical, Agriculture, Education and Public Works Departments are still handicapped by lack of staff.

A fuller account of the principal events during 1948 will be found in the following pages.

PART II

CHAPTER 1

Population

A full-scale population census was conducted during 1947. The census was satisfactorily carried out but unfortunately owing to printing difficulties the statistical analysis and final report has not yet been published. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 as disclosed by the census was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminated tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include, Europeans, Chinese, Indian and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellowmen."

The following table shows the comparative numerical importance of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of total population.</i>
European	... 691	0.1%
Malay	... 97,469	17.9%
Melanau	... 35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak	... 190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak	... 42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous	... 29,867	5.5%
Chinese	... 145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous Asiatic	... 5,119	0.9%
	<hr/> 546,385 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0% <hr/>

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogeneous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language yet it is distinctive and well recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sungkong" in Dutch Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in Dutch Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

Vital Statistics

The system of registration of births and deaths operating in Sarawak in 1941 was continued in 1948. The system is not accurate and effective except in the larger towns, mainly because of an inadequacy of staff but also because of past weaknesses in the legislation. A new Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance was enacted in 1948 but was not brought into force pending the establishment of the necessary machinery for its operation.

On account of the lack of accurate figures it is not possible to give an estimate of the population at the end of 1948 but it is thought to have increased by not less than 1%, which would make the population approximately 552,000.

Immigration

The movement between Sarawak and Dutch Borneo is slight being confined to a few traders and some of the local inhabitants. There is on the other hand a definite and con-



Returning home from padi harvesting, Kampong Pichin.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison



Pounding padi at Kampong Pichin, Tebakang District.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

stant movement of people between Sarawak and Brunei, particularly between Kuala Belait in Brunei and Miri in Sarawak. Singapore vessels call at Kuching in the First Division; Sarikei, Binatang and Sibu in the Third Division; and Miri in the Fourth Division.

Migration to and from Sarawak during 1948 was as set out below :—

<i>Race.</i>	<i>Immigrants.</i>	<i>Emigrants.</i>
European	... 518	482
Chinese	... 6,342	4,189
Malay	... 393	206
Melanau	... 13	7
Sea Dayak	... 263	434
Dusun	... 7	8
Other Asiatic	... 294	333
Totals	... <u>7,830</u>	<u>5,719</u>

Movement of Labour

There has been a constant interchange of labour between the oilfields at Miri and Seria (in Brunei) but no statistics are available. Elsewhere the movement of labour has been negligible.

CHAPTER 2

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisation

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing primitive methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting rice. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of this 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus who are a coastal tribe are mainly engaged in working sago and fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupation of the Chinese; they are to a large extent rubber planters. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The trade of the country is, except for a few European importing firms, in the hands of the Chinese.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. which employs a total of approximately 1,800 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form of work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of children.

No recent or reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available; hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also Protector of Labour, Protector of Women and Girls and Registrar of Societies. District Officers are Deputy Protectors of Labour. A Labour Adviser for the territories of North Borneo, Brunei

and Sarawak was appointed in 1947 and arrived to take up duties early in 1948.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Order and the Labour Conventions Order. Provisions of the former give protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice, and agreements to labour, and provide for the inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task.

The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or system of reporting on inspection, but District Officers regularly visit all important industrial undertakings in their districts and take such action as they think appropriate.

Trade Union legislation which was enacted in 1947 was brought into force during the year. It provides for the appointment of a Registrar of Trade Unions. At the end of the year four Unions had been registered. The largest Trade Union is the Kuching Wharf Labourers' Trade Union which is gradually extending its activities and is developing satisfactorily.

Factory legislation is dealt with under the Dangerous Machinery Ordinance but there is at present no legislation dealing with compensation for accidents, or sickness and old age benefits.

CHAPTER 3

Public Finance and Taxation

Revenue and Expenditure

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1947, the original Estimates for 1948 and the revised Estimates based on information available as at the 31st March, 1949, are given below :—

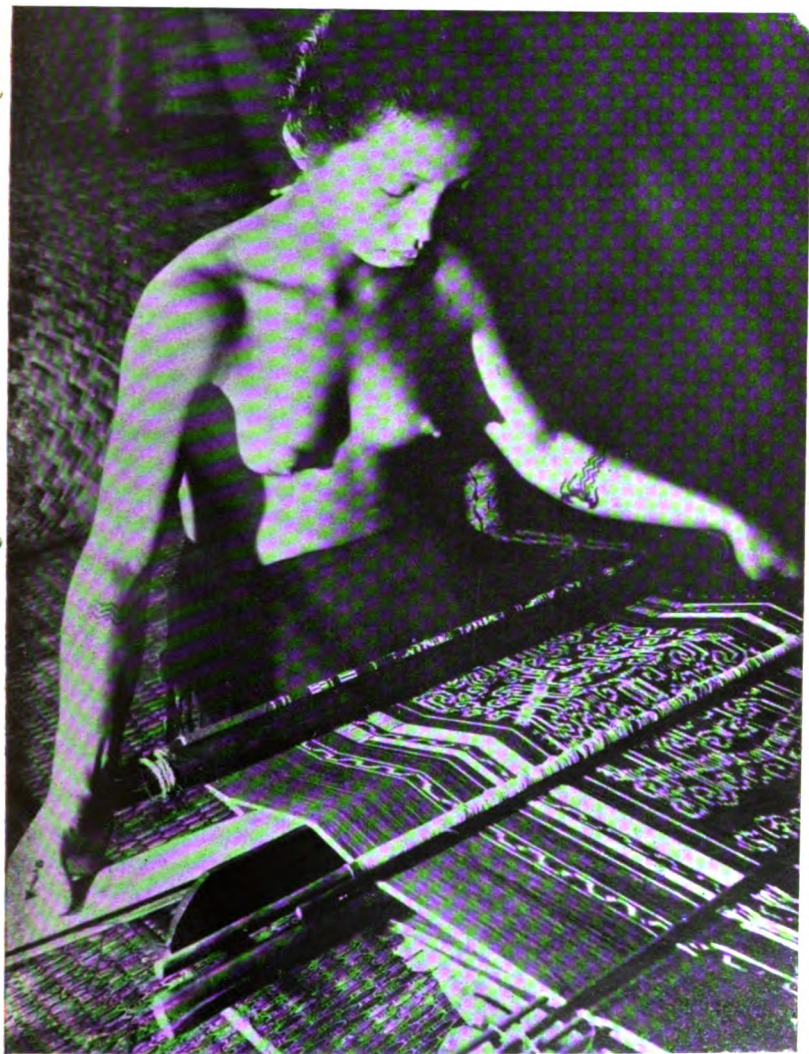
	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expend- iture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1947	12,879,213	10,986,633	1,892,580	
Original Estimates, 1948	11,414,676	12,887,975		1,473,299
Revised Estimates, 1948	15,506,080	12,670,878	2,835,202	

When the Budget for 1948 was framed a deficit of \$1,473,299 was anticipated, whereas a surplus of \$2,835,202 is now expected. The revised Estimate of expenditure differs from the original by \$217,097 only, and the surplus is accounted for by an increase in revenue, which is expected to exceed the original estimate by \$4,091,404.

Revenue

The main heads of Revenue are as follows :—

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1947</i>	<i>Estimated 1948</i>	<i>Estimated 1948 (Revised March, 1949)</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs	8,594,824.28	7,850,000	10,733,585
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	700,742.34	638,698	713,655
Fees of Court or Office etc. ...	911,276.28	709,820	799,959
Departmental Reimbursements	229,831.32	230,605	424,912
Land	332,879.12	341,632	422,585
Forest	132,303.66	160,000	245,315
Posts and Telegraphs	449,194.89	315,600	344,744
Marine	162,967.68	136,209	119,817
Municipal—Outstation	274,054.64	302,756	314,252
Municipal—Kuching	290,358.18	287,700	343,897
Revenue from Government Property	54,256.64	78,243	39,232
Land Sales	56,927.57	—	113,968
Interest	546,794.49	250,000	418,532
Rehabilitation Loans	19,947.84	—	64,948
	12,756,358.93	11,301,244	15,099,398
	122,854.16	113,432	406,682
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants	12,879,213.09	11,414,676	15,506,090



Weaving by a Dayak girl at Rumah Sawing.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

The amount derived from Customs duties, which accounts for the greater part of the additional revenue is attributable to increased exports of rubber, sago, copra and coconut oil and to the increase in prices of the commodities exported, coupled with increased duties on liquors and tobacco.

Expenditure

The heads of Expenditure are as follows :—

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1947</i>	<i>Estimated 1948</i>	<i>Estimated 1948</i>
			<i>(Revised March, 1949)</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Governor	73,735.92	78,281	74,243
H. H. the Rajah's Dependants	135,451.89	140,600	129,862
Agriculture	183,377.61	282,719	190,809
Audit	21,384.43	30,837	28,448
Chinese Affairs	29,415.32	41,791	37,285
Constabulary	641,583.50	883,646	902,818
Co-operation	—	22,476	9,350
Development	—	15,591	13,411
Education	285,162.96	344,997	273,952
Forest	75,111.28	111,310	102,160
Kuching Boys' Home	—	—	5,483
Landing Grounds	2,356.92	2,500	1,999
Lands and Surveys	245,067.53	408,098	355,428
Legal	51,383.45	84,630	66,732
Marine	306,302.87	384,243	346,477
Medical and Health	970,583.10	1,040,176	988,000
Municipal	312,368.00	1,208,624	733,617
Museum and Library	15,946.66	24,513	21,393
Native Affairs	121,498.69	160,201	135,657
Pensions and Provident Fund	1,077,459.87	845,350	744,077
Posts and Telegraphs	202,662.64	328,754	342,438
Printing	89,150.47	149,418	143,674
Prisons	93,193.22	168,909	115,225
Public Works	1,709,189.69	3,078,454	2,306,207
R. & D.O. 1st Division	122,192.43	170,663	146,987
.. 2nd Division	123,257.26	178,870	173,161
.. 3rd Division	226,875.34	295,439	301,269
.. 4th Division	143,003.33	167,816	236,830
.. 5th Division	46,315.32	59,186	
Rice Mill	15,360.36	29,958	19,438
Secretariat	91,363.11	95,966	138,138
Survey of Ships	1,366.92	2,231	1,784
Trade and Customs	156,073.42	204,271	199,083
Treasury	3,130,735.48	1,734,025	2,521,828
Census	823.39	—	—
Shortages and Losses	5,845.15	—	8,038
Rehabilitation Loans	142,416.82	—	328,696
Sociological Research	—	—	8,770
Unallocated Stores	—	—	111,429

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1947</i>	<i>Estimated 1948</i>	<i>Estimated 1948 (Revised March, 1949)</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Food Control	—	—	—
London Office	—	—	—
Special Extraordinary Ex- penditure	—	—	—
Arrears of Pensions, Pay etc.	—	—	—
	10,798,014.35	12,774,548	12,264,196
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund	188,618.97	113,432	406,682
	10,986,633.32	12,887,976	12,670,878

Public Debt

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1947.

LIABILITIES.

Deposits—			
Security Deposits ...	\$ 651,182.94		
Miscellaneous ...	1,248,523.78		
			1,899,706.67
Special Funds ... ..	...	...	4,058,685.25
Current Accounts ... ..	...	...	185,878.42
Goods-in-transit ... ..	...	...	4,466.19
Trading a/c. Food Control	...	...	7,883,850.94
Allotments—London ...	...	...	10,090.26
General Revenue Balance—			
Balance as at 1.1.1947 ...	6,297,179.80		
Add Surplus and Deficit a/c.	1,892,570.77		
	\$10,189,759.57		
Deduct Depreciation of Investments	6,401.84		
			10,183,357.78
Balance as at 31.12.1947	...	...
		TOTAL ...	\$23,675,770.46

ASSETS.

Cash ... ..	...	...	\$ 3,172,931.09
Fixed Deposits with Chartered Bank, Kuching	...	...	671,244.26
Joint Colonial Fund ... ..	...	...	6,390,961.14
Investments ... ..	...	...	10,847,726.27
Investments, Special Funds	...	...	647,502.82
Advances ... ..	...	...	931,142.18
Imprests ... ..	...	...	4,965.00
Current Accounts ... ..	...	...	32,874.74

Stock—

Unallocated Stock, Agriculture	\$ 16,152.41	
Unallocated Stock, Public Works Department	221,821.24	
		287,478.65
Drafts and Remittances ...	...	477,722.20
Remittances between Chests ...	...	240,770.84
Allotments—Local ...	...	852.11
Suspense ...	...	20,624.66
	TOTAL ...	\$28,675,770.46

Note :—

A sum of \$65,764.81 is due by His Majesty's Government in respect of under issues on Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D804.

Taxation

The main source of income is Customs Import and Export Duties which comprise approximately two-thirds of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1948 is \$10,733,585.

Customs Tariff

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, milk, coffee, tinned meats, soap, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, fireworks, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue producing items in 1948, were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$3,183,095, on petroleum products \$298,724, and on alcoholic liquors \$322,569; and Export Duties on rubber \$3,456,023 and on sago \$1,277,980.

EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES**(a) Excise**

There is no Excise Duty as such in Sarawak but fees which are based on excise procedure are charged on the manufacture of matches and certain wines within the Colony.

(b) Stamp Duties

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17). The principal duties are:—

Affidavits or declaration in writing ...	\$ 2.50
Agreements or contracts ...	.50
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ...	10.00
Bill of Exchange (not being a cheque on a bank) ...	10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed ...	5.00
Receipts ...	6 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00

A stamp duty of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a bank, a document previously free of duty, was introduced in 1948.

The structure of the public accounts is such that it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from each individual source.

Door and Head Tax

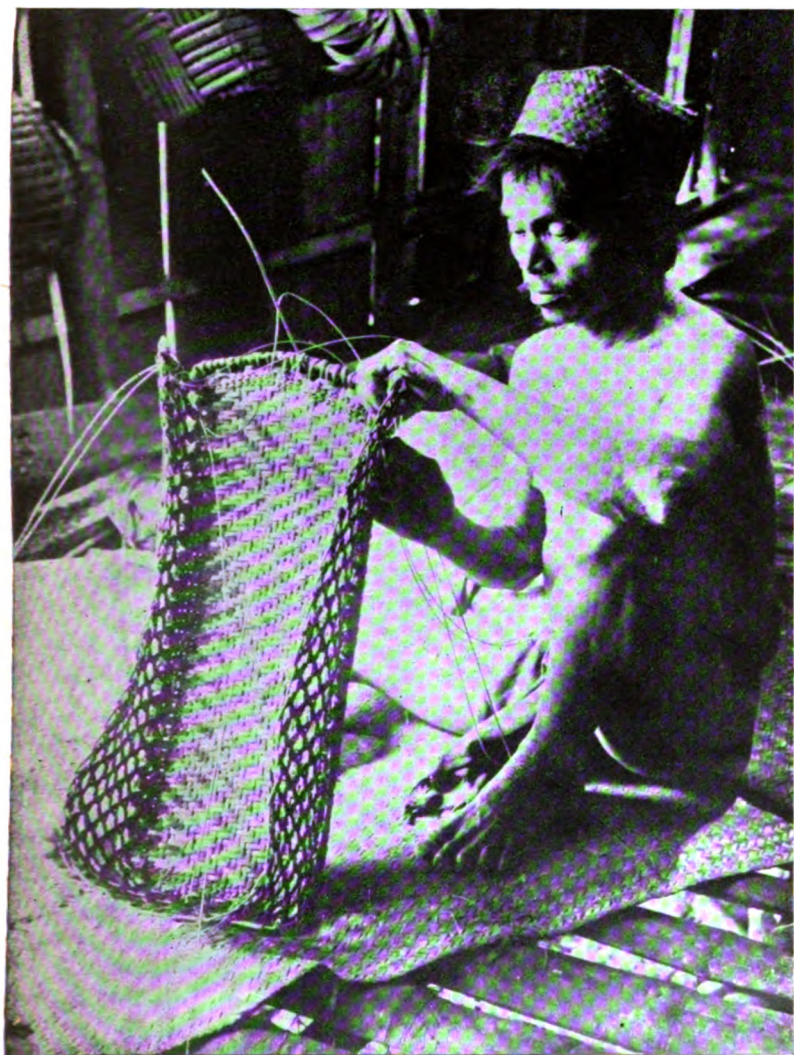
The system of Malay hasil (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. Such collections, where Native Treasuries have been instituted are, as an administrative measure, paid over to the Local Authorities in full. The "door" tax is equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in other territories, the "door" being the apartment in a Dayak long-house occupied by a single family. "Head tax" is applicable mainly to Malays and Melanaus, and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes

There is no Income Tax or similar tax at present.

Estate Duties

The rates of Estate Duties were amended in 1948. Some relief on small estates was granted whilst a heavier duty was imposed on the larger estates.



A Dayak at Rumah Sawing making a basket of rotan.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

The revised rates came into force on 1st September 1948 and are as follows :—

Where the value of the estate exceeds :

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$	3,000 ...	1	per cent
3,000	5,000 ...	1½	„
5,000	7,500 ...	2½	„
7,500	10,000 ...	3½	„
10,000	20,000 ...	5	„
20,000	40,000 ...	7½	„
40,000	70,000 ...	10	„
70,000	100,000 ...	15	„
Over 100,000.	...	20	„

Entertainment Tax

No entertainment Tax is at present levied in the Colony but legislation was enacted at the November meeting of the Council Negri to enable Entertainment Tax to be charged at the following rates :—

Where the payment excluding the amount of the duty :

does not exceed 25 cents.	5 cents.
exceeds 25 cents and does not exceed 50 cts.	10 cents
„ 50 „ „ „ „ „ \$1	20 „
„ \$1 „ „ „ „ „ \$2	30 „
„ \$2 „ „ „ „ „ \$3	40 „
„ \$3 „ „ „ „ „ \$5	50 „
exceeds \$5	10% of amount of the payment

The Ordinance has not yet been brought into force.

CHAPTER 4

Currency and Banking

Currency

Since the conclusion of the war Malayan currency has been issued in Sarawak, in the first instance to provide a common currency for the three British Borneo territories during the Military Administration. No new issue of Sarawak currency has been made since re-occupation and none is intended. The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak :—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

Sarawak currency is gradually being withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. So far as is known there is no British North Borneo currency in circulation in Sarawak. The remaining Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

At the 31st December, 1948, there was approximately \$4 million of Sarawak currency in circulation and \$11½ million of Malayan currency. The total circulation figure at 31st December, 1948, shows little change from that at 31st December, 1947.

Banking

Banking facilities in Sarawak are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, and the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation. The status of the Chartered Bank in Kuching was restored in 1948 to that of a full agency directly under the control of the Head Office in London. In addition the recently opened Sibu branch of the Chartered Bank is now under the control of the Kuching Agency instead of the Singapore branch. The Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation opened their first office in Sarawak in Kuching on the 1st January, 1948.

In addition there are three small Chinese trading banks in Sarawak : the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank,

and the Wah Tat Bank. The fate of these three Chinese banks continues to give some concern, and the publication of the Debtor/Creditor legislation and the consequent lifting of the Moratorium will undoubtedly present the banks with problems of some magnitude in meeting the claims of depositors, while the collection of overdrafts is proceeding.

Post Office Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1948 was 2,675 as compared with 2,258 at the end of 1947. The amount of credit to depositors was \$865,054 as against \$727,896 in 1947. During the year deposits amounted to \$489,400 which exceeded withdrawals by \$135,505.

CHAPTER 5

Commerce

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for the year 1948 was \$270,020,772 as compared with \$175,393,280 for the year 1947. This total is made up as follows :—

Exports	...	...	\$171,250,887
Imports	...	...	98,769,885
Favourable Trade Balance	...		<u>\$ 72,481,002</u>

Of the total exports of \$171,250,887 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$111,753,896.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports being \$47,140,684. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum is included in the export total.

If the value of imports and exports of crude oil is disregarded, the favourable trade balance for 1948 is \$7,867,790 made up as follows :—

Exports	...	...	\$59,496,991
Imports	...	...	51,629,201
			<u>\$ 7,867,790</u>

While the figure of \$72,481,002 can be regarded as an over-statement of the true trade balance, so also may \$7,867,790 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into consideration the actual production of oil in Sarawak.

Imports

The declared value of imports for 1948 as compared with 1947 is as set out below :—

	1948	1947
Foodstuffs	\$21,082,912	\$16,717,268
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	5,839,503	6,206,787
Petroleum, crude & refined ...	48,761,085	30,642,644
Tobacco	5,491,009	5,471,098
Manufactured goods & sundries	17,595,376	18,216,908
	<u>\$98,769,885</u>	<u>\$72,254,705</u>

During the year the basic foodstuffs, i.e., rice, flour and sugar continued to be imported on Government procurement. Butter, meat, fats, cheese and milk though still on quota were procured through normal commercial channels. The supply of consumer goods was adequate and bazaar trade brisk during the first half of the year but these fell off considerably during the second half, as a result of the drop in price of rubber.

The cost of the basic foodstuffs, with the exception of flour, showed a further advance on that of 1947, the declared values being :—

	1948	1947
Rice	\$ 417.64 per ton	\$ 331.33 per ton
Flour	389.47 " "	408.12 " "
Sugar	518.02 " "	440.40 " "
Salt	67.56 " "	66.58 " "
Milk	1,280.66 " "	1,132.12 " "

Compared with 1940 values the 1948 values show an advance of :

Rice ...	4.37 times
Flour ...	3.23 " "
Sugar ...	3.17 " "
Salt ...	1.38 " "
Milk ...	2.03 " "

Exports

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1948, as compared with 1947, made up as follows :—

	1948	1947
Petroleum, crude and refined	\$111,753,896	\$51,225,640
Rubber	34,532,924	26,084,589
Sago Flour	11,124,325	10,598,863
Pepper	1,159,242	3,213,497
Jelutong	2,228,479	2,707,422
Various guttas	363,020	832,466
Damar	389,559	487,143
Sundries	9,699,442	7,988,955
	<u>\$171,250,887</u>	<u>\$103,138,575</u>

Exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 1,672,230 tons to 2,599,897 tons and the declared value per ton was also higher. It is not possible for the reason already given to assess the true value of these exports in the Colony's economy. Crude oil actually won in the Colony amounted to 46,597 long tons as against 23,964 long tons in 1947.

Exports of rubber increased from 35,550 tons in 1947 to 39,884 tons in 1948 and a higher average price was obtained.

As a result of the stimulating effect of a good price during 1947 the production of sago flour in 1948 continued to increase with a record export of 49,751 tons being 10,530 tons more than the previous year. The quality however was not up to previous standards and many complaints were received. The fault lay with certain refiners and exporters who were too anxious to reap the immediate benefit of a high price and who paid little regard to quality. As a result the Government decided to prohibit the export of raw and partly refined sago and to introduce legislation to prevent the export of adulterated or low grade sago flour.

Timber exports have shown a very encouraging trend and reached a record total of 21,128 tons valued at \$1,158,335. The 1947 value was \$233,508.

The firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony fall into two main groups :

- (i) the Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) the Chinese Merchants, of whom there are many.

The Agency Houses are European firms importing from the United Kingdom, Singapore, or other countries proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors.

In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business and also engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants.

The Chinese merchants engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some act as agency houses, but on a much smaller scale than do the European firms.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but practically the whole trade of the country



A Malay girl weaving.

Photograph by K. F. Wong

passes, at some stage or other, through the hands of the Chinese merchants large or small. In the larger towns and bazaars there are some shops which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash, but many combine this with the purchase of rubber and other produce. The sundry goods which they have for sale will include a great variety of oriental foodstuffs : sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, prawn-paste and dried fish as well as all kinds of spices, fruits and vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources. Most imported goods are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago to Europe and rubber to America ; are now becoming more frequent.

The more important Chinese shops in the towns are usually linked with firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in the towns have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars whom they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas.

Most of the jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, other than those which they can themselves supply, are very few. The up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of his Dayak customers who may from time to time set their hearts on any object, but have a natural partiality for gold and silver ornaments.

Very little local weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns, very little more is really needed by the natives than salt and oil for lighting and cooking and iron for the manufacture of tools and weapons. It is interesting to note, however, how great is the variety of goods normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

CHAPTER 6

Production

AGRICULTURE

It is estimated that an area of about 13,000 square miles is used for agricultural purposes. This includes land occupied by tree crops and land used for hill padi cultivation. A recent survey has shown that approximately 5,600 square miles of the delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamp unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes. There are, however, considerable areas of good swamp padi land in the delta regions. There are small areas of good well drained soils suitable for tree and shrub crops, particularly in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, but on the whole the soils are very poor.

The average annual rainfall is of the order of 160 inches; in the southwestern part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February; in the northeastern half of the country the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform.

Apart from five large rubber estates small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the development of the country's agriculture by the small native farmer working a mixed system of farming rather than development by the large specialised plantation.

The Department of Agriculture is handicapped by acute shortage of trained and experienced technical staff but is making energetic efforts to develop the country's agriculture in accordance with the stated policy. Financial assistance is being received from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund for agricultural schemes.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are as follows :—

(a) *Padi*. This is the main crop. Production has increased considerably since the liberation and there is no doubt that Sarawak is approaching self sufficiency in rice. A destructive system of shifting hill/dry padi cultivation, that

is bringing very serious problems in its train, accounts for a considerable part of the padi produced. Swamp/wet padi is also cultivated but the methods employed are usually primitive and yields are often low. Due to poor communications and acute shortage of technical staff it is at present impossible to make an accurate estimate of acreage covered by the crop. The 1947-48 crop was average; the 1948-49 swamp/wet padi crop is on the whole well above the average though the hill/dry crop has not fulfilled its early promise.

(b) *Rubber* is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated in 1941 that there were approximately 240,000 acres under rubber of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by native holdings each less than 5 acres in extent. It is possible that the acreage has increased during the war. Most of the acreage is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition and must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. Adequate budwood is now available for smallholders who wish to replant with high yielding material.

(c) *Sago*. It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres under sago, the major part being concentrated in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by Melanaus. No detailed information as to the average number of palms per acre or the general condition of the palms is at present available. Since the liberation production of sago flour has been at a high level and there is little doubt that the rate of working has been higher than the present rate of regeneration and planting justifies. Interest, however, is now being taken in planting up new areas. Some very poor quality flour was exported by speculative traders and there was a risk of Sarawak sago flour getting a bad name. Export from Sarawak of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum quality standard is therefore now prohibited.

(d) *Pepper* was an important export product before the war but the gardens were largely abandoned during the Japanese occupation. Considerable replanting has taken place recently and it is estimated that the acreage of new planting now totals about 150 acres, mainly in the form of small individual gardens each less than half an acre in extent. Appreciable quantities of new pepper should be available for

export in 1950 and after that there should be a steady increase in production if prices remain at their present level.

(e) *Coconuts* are mainly a smallholder's crop largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage occupied by the crop is estimated at 21,000 acres though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

(f) *Tuba Root* (derris) has been cultivated in the past but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is a good export demand but there is still a shortage of suitable planting material.

(g) *Gambier* was an important product many years ago but production is now negligible.

(h) *Pineapples* of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced in small quantities on drained peat soils.

(i) *Tobacco*—small areas are planted by the natives for their own use. Quality of the product can probably be improved.

(j) *Fresh fruit and vegetables* adequate for local needs are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Animal husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Bullocks are rarely seen. Some herds of buffaloes estimated at a total of 5,600 head are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese smallholders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in and around Dayak villages. Schemes for the development of animal husbandry in Sarawak with assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund are being prepared.

FISHERIES

Fresh water fisheries on a small scale are maintained by Chinese smallholders near the towns. The sea fisheries are mainly coastal and are worked usually by small syndicates. Most of the fishermen are Chinese, Melanaus or Malays.

Despite the fact that there are good fishing grounds in the immediate vicinity of Sarawak, and that many of the people on the coast depend on fishing for their livelihood, the Colony is by no means self-supporting in this most important foodstuff which plays a large part in the national diet. Most of the fishing is carried out by methods which have been in use for generations and the methods of drying, curing and marketing are sometimes wasteful and inefficient. The improvement of the fishing industry is therefore an important item in the development of the Colony.

Under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for a survey of Sarawak's fisheries, a Fisheries Survey Officer arrived in the Colony in January, 1948, and a Master Fisherman arrived later in the year. A fishing boat was completed and launched towards the end of the year and started operations with trawls and Danish seines. Catches were often small and erratic when learning local conditions and fishing grounds, and there is no sign yet of the vessel doing more than pay its running expenses.

Fishery statistics were obtained from Chinese dealers. They either owned the fishing gear and hired Malays to work, or bought the catches from Malays and were persuaded to send in monthly returns of the numbers and kinds of fish caught. Over a hundred dealers in thirty villages were doing so on a voluntary basis.

There are over thirty fishing villages in the bay of Sarawak between Cape Datu and Cape Sirik and as far as Matu. The nearest ones supply the markets in Kuching and Sibü but many of them sell the catch to Chinese fish dealers who turn it into salt fish. Nearly two hundred Chinese fishing vessels using drift nets go out from Kuching; there are over thirty fishing stakes off Kabong, which with inshore beach seines and large prawn fisheries form the main types of fisheries. There are twenty-five different kinds of fishing gear in use and the replacement value of these amounts to \$600,000. The netting is estimated to require 30,000 lbs. of No. 12 twine, 16,000 lbs. of 14/6 twine and 50,000 lbs. of rami fibre. Fishermen numbered 3,261 and converting the salt fish to fresh the estimated annual catch was 55,000 piculs, or 3,300 tons, making one ton of fish caught annually for each fisherman.

The principal fishing season lasted from May to September with a peak in July and August but the season for prawns and shrimps ran from September to May through the monsoon.

The main fishing grounds for drift net fishing lie between the mouths of the Kuching and Rejang rivers in 10-12 fathoms. The shallow banks off the mouths of the Kabong and Matu rivers lend themselves to fishing stakes, and the prawn fisheries are close inshore near the estuaries of the Batang Lupar and Rejang rivers.

The transport of fish to markets is the greatest difficulty, many fish carriers come from as far away as Singapore and improvement or increase in the Sarawak carrier fleet is much needed.

Trials with dehydrated fish were fairly successful in all but urban communities and food shops. Country people and others liked it, and there is a fairly firm foundation for the use of dehydrated fish and presumably fish meal. In the bay of Sarawak during the five months May to September 150-300 tons a month were an estimated surplus turned into salt fish which would be available for fish meal if transport could be found.

Demersal or bottom living fish have already been sought unsuccessfully by the Steam Trawler "Tongkol" operating in 1927. In 1949 ring nets and drift nets may be tried for pelagic or free swimming fishes. Of these there are over forty kinds against twenty bottom living species.

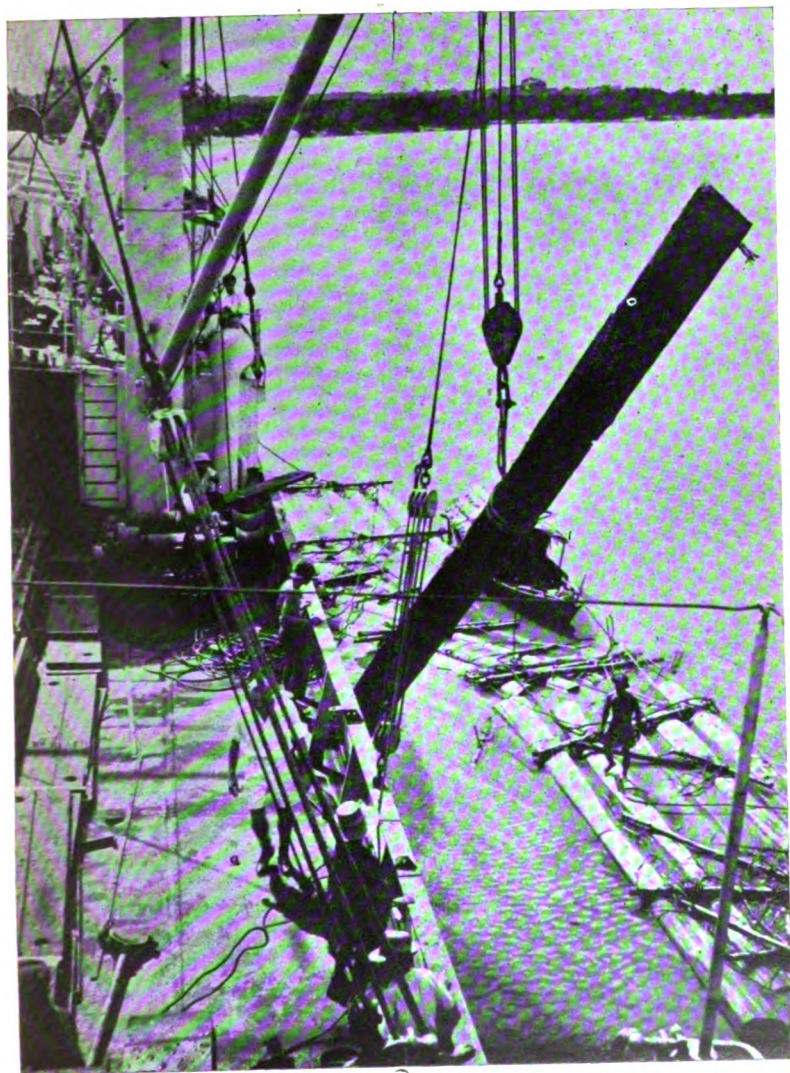
FORESTRY

The forests of the Colony may be classified as evergreen rain forest and consist of three main types :—

(a) *Mangrove forest* which occurs in the deltas of the main rivers, and produces firewood, charcoal and cutch, a tanning extract obtained from mangrove bark.

(b) *Inland Swamp (fresh water) forest*. This is very extensive producing fair quality timber and minor produce, the most valuable of which is *jelutong*, a wild latex obtained from *Dyera Lowii*.

(c) *Dry or hill forest*. This is the best type of forest producing valuable timber, both hardwoods and softwoods, and also minor forest produce such as rotans and resins. This type of forest was at one time very extensive, but a



Loading logs at Sarikei on the Rejang.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison



Logging at Loba Kabang swamp forest. Ramin logs being cut.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

large proportion of the more accessible areas have been destroyed by shifting cultivation.

The forest products of Sarawak fall under two heads, referred to as major and minor forest produce.

(i) *Major forest produce.* This includes timber and firewood. Domestic requirements of lumber are met by 20 medium-sized mills which export a small surplus to neighbouring territories. There is still a demand for prime lumber from the United Kingdom and Australia, but expansion of this trade is still hindered by the inability of the mills to find an adequate outlet for lower grade lumber. Shipping communications with China, a potential market, have however improved, and parcels of lower grade lumber have been exported to Hongkong and Shanghai. At present the bulk of the timber exported is in log form and there has been considerable development in this field, particularly the export of logs to Australia where there is a heavy demand for general utility timbers and peeler logs. This latter requirement has resulted in the utilization of a swamp species known as Ramin (*Gonystylus* sp.) that has previously been regarded locally as of little value. There are five established logging enterprises working under European supervision and there is every prospect of further expansion in the timber export industry.

The following figures show the total production of timber and the quantity exported during 1948 as compared with 1947 :—

	<i>Total production</i> (cubic feet)	<i>Exported</i> (cubic feet)
1947	... 1,116,850	284,950
1948	... 2,089,050	980,100

In addition 27,747 long tons of firewood and charcoal was produced as compared with 18,019 long tons in 1947.

(ii) *Minor forest produce.* The principal minor forest products all of which are exported, are wild rubbers, canes (rotan) and resins (damar). Of these the most important is jelutong a wild rubber used extensively in the manufacture of chewing gum. It is collected by crude methods of tapping and coagulated with acetic or phosphoric acid. Sarawak canes are used for the handles of cricket bats.

Irregularly at intervals of three to four years various *Shorea* spp. produce a heavy crop of Illipe nuts, known vernacularly as *Engkabang*. The kernels are exported and produce a valuable vegetable tallow used in the manufacture of confectionery and cosmetics. The quantity of the crop collected is affected by market fluctuations, since it is incidental with the rice harvest.

At the end of the year the Ministry of Food was negotiating with the Government for the purchase of the 1949 crop at a guaranteed price.

In 1948, the production of wild rubbers of all types was 2,507 long tons, canes 698 long tons and resins 1,690 long tons. There was only a local illipe nut crop which occurred in the Baram river and yielded only a few tons of nuts.

There is also a considerable internal trade in roofing thatch (atap) and walling (kajang) made from the leaves of the *Nipa* palm which is abundant in the coastal swamps.

MINING

The minerals mined in 1948 were gold and oil. A very small amount of antimony ore was also produced. The amount of gold won was 599 ounces. The gold is worked by small Chinese syndicates, mostly from alluvial pockets in the Bau district. The gold mining industry has been adversely affected by lack of machinery and high labour costs.

Oil is produced in the Fourth Division by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. on a concession from Government. The daily production has increased considerably during the year. Deep boring tests at Miri have been delayed owing to lack of special tools.

Coal deposits exist. The Government previously operated a coal mine at Sadong but it has been closed since 1932. All known deposits have been examined by a team of experts but their reports do not add a great deal to the information already available.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

A major industry in Sarawak is the refining of oil. All the oil produced in Brunei and Sarawak is refined at Lutong in the Fourth Division.

The Island Trading Company, at Selalang in the Third Division, which has been in operation since 1909, manu-



Meranti logs being tipped into the river on the Sungai Stabar.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

factures cutch (a tanning extract) from the mangrove bark. The Company's activities have earned a considerable amount of U.S. dollars since the re-occupation of the country.

There are also a few minor industries such as the manufacture of matches, soap and aerated water and the curing of fish.

CHAPTER 7

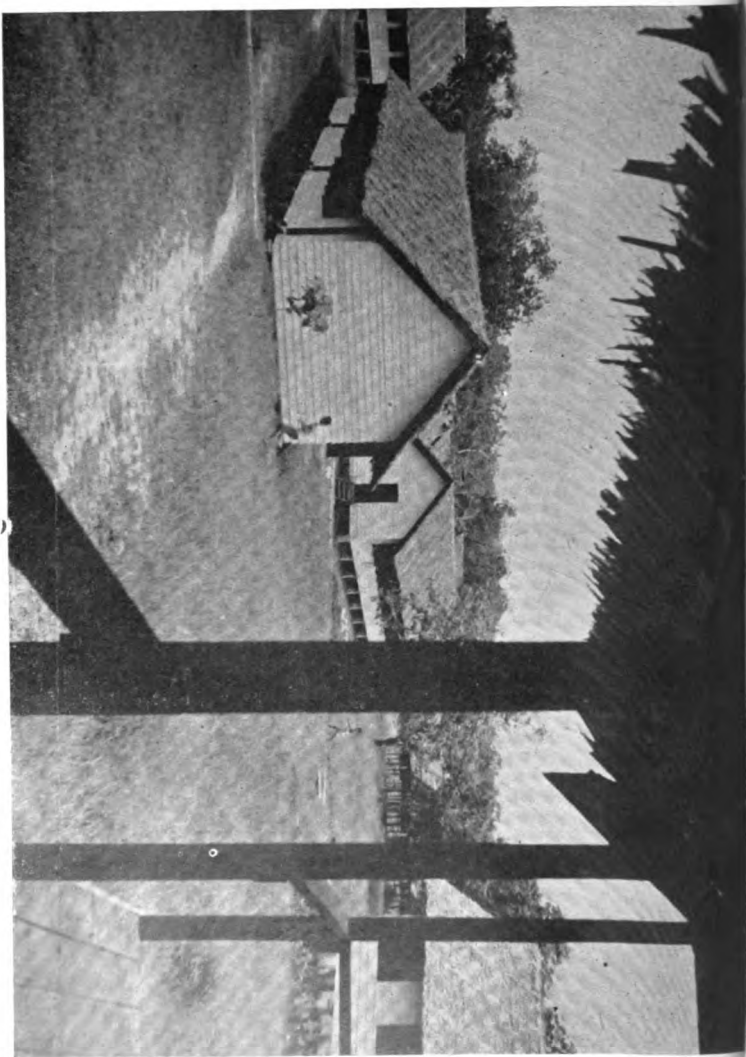
SOCIAL SERVICES

Education

Historical Introduction. A Department of Education was first created in 1924 when a Director was appointed. During the depression of the early thirties the Department was closed and the schools became the part-time responsibility of the appropriate sections of the Administrative Service. It was not until 1939 that the post of Director was revived, and even then the Chinese Affairs Department continued to be responsible for the Chinese Schools. In 1946 the Education Department was reconstituted by seconding an Administrative Officer to act as Director in charge of all educational services including the Chinese Schools system. During 1947 an Educational Adviser was appointed to act as Director, and the number of Education Officers was increased to two.

During the war 17 schools were totally destroyed, and 35 others damaged, as a direct result of the fighting. At most other schools furniture and equipment were looted, and buildings became dilapidated because necessary repairs were neglected. During the four years of Japanese occupation most of the Government Malay Schools continued to function, but attendances were low and attempts to introduce the teaching of the Japanese language met with little success. All the Mission Schools remained closed and the teaching of English ceased completely. Some of the Chinese Schools continued to function, but enrolments fell and attempts to use the schools as centres of propaganda were unsuccessful.

On the arrival of the British Military Administration in November, 1945, immediate steps were taken to restore educational services. Government Schools and the Malay Teacher-training College were re-opened, the work of the Mission urban schools was resumed, and the Chinese Schools were re-established with commendable rapidity. Rehabilitation and development continued successfully under the Civil Government and at the end of 1947 the school population had risen to nearly 30,000 as compared with just over 19,000 in 1940. The corresponding figure for 1948 was approximately 33,500.



Group of buildings, Batu Lintang Training Centre.

Photograph by Hella Morrison

General and Administration. During 1948 the senior staff was increased by the transfer of an Agricultural Education Officer from the Agricultural Department, and by the appointment of an Assistant Principal for the new Teacher-training Centre. Attempts to recruit officers to fill four other senior posts which had been approved were unsuccessful. In connection with a general revision of terms of service, more reasonable salary scales for the staff of the Education Department were approved during the latter part of 1948. The new scales provide for all grades of teachers up to the trained University graduate; whereas the old terms for local staff catered only for Vernacular Teachers in Primary Schools.

A development of importance was the establishment of the first Local Authorities which are beginning to assume responsibility for Primary Education in their areas. Five such Authorities were constituted during 1948 and these took over or established 18 Primary Schools. In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged, in the meantime, to open Private Aided Schools which are controlled by Committees comprising local representatives and receive financial assistance from Central Government funds.

The greatly increased interest in education shown since the liberation by the indigenous peoples other than the Malays and Melanau was maintained during 1948. The number of children of these peoples attending school at the end of 1948 was over 3,700 as compared with less than 1,000 before the war. The rate of expansion of this school system was still limited seriously by the number of literate people capable of being employed temporarily as untrained teachers.

The number of girls of all races attending school continued to increase and had risen from some 5,000 in 1940 to more than 10,000 by the end of 1948. A new post of Woman Education Officer was approved in order that courses more suited to the needs of women and girls may be introduced in all stages of the educational system.

Several new schools were built during the year, and at a large number of existing schools the work of renovation was completed. The standard of furniture and equipment was improved considerably, and increasing supplies of stationery and of text-books began to arrive.

Finance. The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from public funds on educational services :—

	1940	1947	1948
	\$	\$	\$
Central Government Estimates ...	166,881	275,955	344,937
Local Authority Estimates ...	Nil	Nil	20,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	Nil	Nil	208,124
Total ...	166,881	275,955	573,121

Although accurate figures were not available it was estimated that during 1948 the Mission authorities spent approximately \$169,000 and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$1,024,000 on educational services. The amounts were mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions, and were additional to Grants-in-Aid from Government funds.

Government Schools. At the end of 1948 there were 56 Government Schools staffed by 104 Government Teachers and with 4,080 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1947 were 72 schools with 109 teachers and 4,416 pupils. The decreases are more than accounted for by the fact that a number of Government Schools and Teachers were taken over by Local Authorities during 1948.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. No fees are charged, but the pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees, with advisory powers, were formed during the year at an increased number of schools.

With the exception of one school in Kuching at which some post-primary classes have been established, all these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction but the teaching of English as a subject, for which there is a great demand, is being introduced as teachers with sufficient ability become available.

At most of these schools the number of pupils remaining in school for more than one or two years continued to be discouragingly low, and the average attendance was still very unsatisfactory.



A basket making class at Batu Lintang Training Centre.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison



In the carpentry shop, Batu Lintang



Religious instruction from the Mufti.
Training Centre.

Local Authority Schools. At the end of 1948 there were 18 Local Authority Schools with 21 teachers and an enrolment of 804. The members of these Authorities, which catered entirely for Dayak communities, showed a keen desire for the improvement and expansion of educational facilities and, beginning to appreciate the need for trained teachers, selected a number of students to enter the Government Teacher-training Centre in 1949.

All these schools had to be staffed temporarily with untrained teachers, but the general organisation and curriculum are similar to those adopted for Government schools.

Private Schools. At the end of 1948 there were 30 Private Schools with 47 teachers and 1,563 pupils. Of these schools 11 catered mainly for Malays and 19 chiefly for Dayaks. Most of these schools are "One-teacher" schools, established and conducted by registered Committees comprising representatives of the local people. Grants from Central Government funds amounting to \$1,300 were paid during the year to those schools which applied for financial assistance. A number of these schools received professional guidance from the Mission representative in the area.

Mission Schools. At the end of 1948 there were 56 Mission Schools with 196 teachers and 5,724 pupils. In the previous year there were 58 schools staffed by 192 teachers and with an enrolment of 5,087 pupils. A considerable number of "over-age" pupils, who had resumed their studies after the Japanese occupation, left school during 1948. The expansion of the Mission rural school system for the indigenous peoples other than Malays and Melanaus continued to make very encouraging progress during the year. Government grants amounting to approximately \$74,500 were paid to Mission Schools during 1948, as compared with some \$70,000 during the previous year.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction, and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government Service. Post-primary courses were provided at five of these schools, and 48 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior Certificate Examination at the end of 1948. In the rural schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools. At the end of 1948 there were 204 Chinese Schools with 679 teachers and 21,282 pupils as compared with 192 schools, 656 teachers and 19,522 pupils in the previous year. These schools are generally conducted by separate Committees, but the centralisation of all the Chinese Schools in Kuching under a joint Board of Management resulted in still further improvement during 1948 on both the administrative and professional sides.

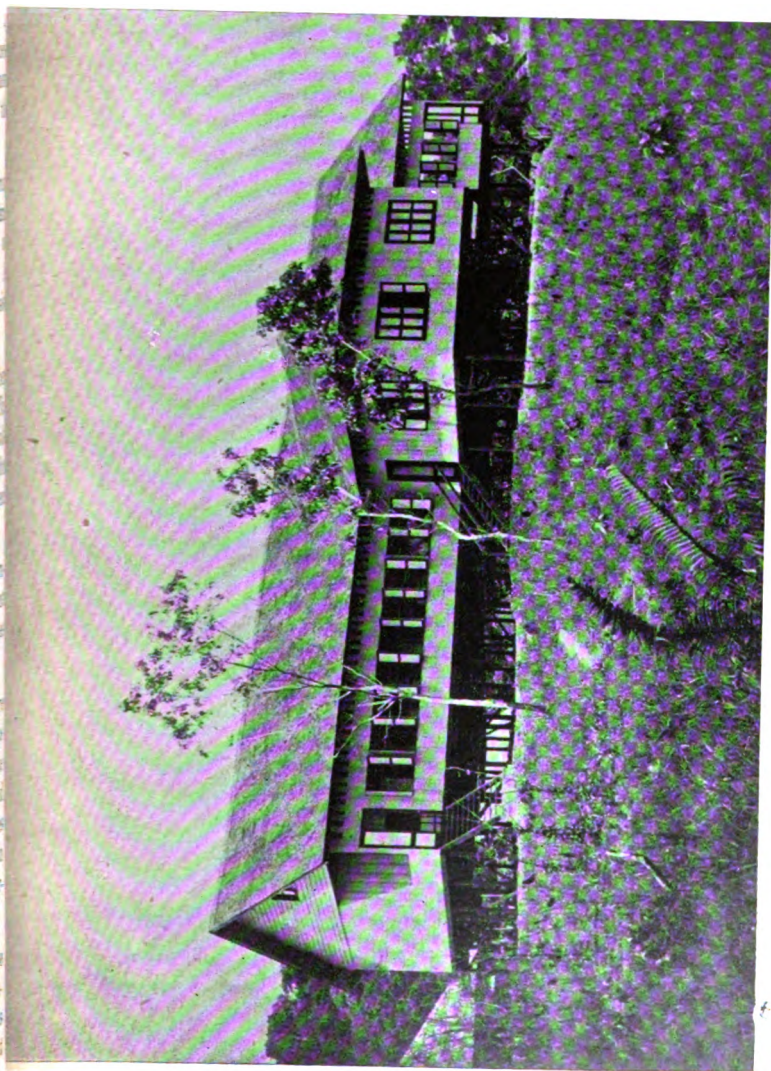
During the year "block" grants amounting to approximately \$30,000 were paid to Chinese Schools from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at some 68 Aided Schools with a total enrolment of 12,352. A further sum of \$37,548 was paid as a special grant to assist with the provision of additional furniture and equipment.

There were two Junior Middle Schools, and eight other schools had combined Primary and Middle departments. The curriculum is almost identical with that followed by schools in China. The Chinese National Language, Kuo-yü, is the language of instruction, but increasing attention is being given to the teaching of English as a subject.

Higher Education. With the co-operation of Government and Mission staff it was possible to establish a joint School Certificate class during 1948, and 18 local candidates sat for this examination at the end of the year.

The Scholarship Schemes for higher studies overseas were expanded considerably. In fact the number of scholarships available exceeded the number of applicants holding the minimum qualifications for admission to Colleges and Universities. Several students were attending College courses in Singapore and a local nurse was sent for training in England under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship.

Adult Education. Night Classes at a number of Chinese Schools and at a few Government and Mission Schools continued to be well supported, and a few new Night Schools were registered during 1948. These courses generally aim at enabling adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and, in a few instances, to study English. In Kuching classes were conducted by the Education Department to assist entrants to Government Service whose standard of education is below the minimum



Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

standard required for permanent appointment. During the year a further 46 students reached the requisite standard.

The Principal of St. Thomas's School organised a series of lectures, discussion groups and debates for the boys and girls due to leave the Mission Secondary Schools in Kuching at the end of the year. These future citizens were thus enabled to gain some understanding of the meaning of democracy, the functions of central and local government, and the work and plans of various Government departments.

Unfortunately shortage of staff still made it impossible to organise any Mass Education scheme on a sound basis. A member of the Education Department was able, during study leave in the United Kingdom, to attend a conference on Mass Education, and it is hoped that on his return he will be able to implement plans for this important section of a development programme. In the meantime comparatively large numbers of young men and women attended the rural day schools for the indigenous peoples, and at some schools arrangements were made for afternoon or evening sessions to cater for these adolescents. Literacy classes were conducted by voluntary workers in some of the Prisons.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities. There were several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose objects were to foster social, educational and cultural activities. Others provided facilities for games. The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides movements continued to develop and a few new troops were formed in connection with schools.

During the year the Education Department assumed responsibility for the Kuching Boys' Home for juvenile delinquents which had previously been attached to the Prisons Department.

DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES

Batu Lintang Scheme. A free grant of \$704,806 was approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the establishment, and maintenance over 5 years, of a Government Teacher-training Centre and Secondary School. Such institutions were the most urgent educational requirements, and it was decided to recondition camp buildings at Batu Lintang, which had been used by the Japanese as an internment camp, in order that an early start could be made with this scheme.

Final approval was received in February, 1948, and the rapid conversion of the huts at Batu Lintang enabled the staff and students to transfer to these buildings at the beginning of July. During the interim period the students lived in a Government bungalow and used classrooms at the Government Malay School in Kuching.

An Educational Officer was posted as Principal, a Roman Catholic priest with academic and professional qualifications was appointed Assistant Principal, and three local people were appointed as Assistant Masters. Efforts to recruit an Anglican clergyman as a second Assistant Principal had not been successful by the end of the year. This practical co-operation of Government and Missions in training teachers for all types of schools at one institution was a most important basic development. Another vital feature was the gathering together of students of all races, religions and creeds in order to develop mutual understanding and to foster a corporate spirit.

During the year 56 student-teachers comprising nine different races were recruited from all parts of Sarawak, and four students from North Borneo attended the course. Because of the urgent need to provide teachers for a rapidly increasing number of schools it was decided to limit the duration of the course, in the first instance, to two years. A few of the students from the most backward races will probably have to remain at the Centre for a longer period. The course was designed to improve the academic standard of all students, including the study of English, and to give them a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods. Considerable emphasis was also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and indigenous cultures. Religious instruction was arranged for both Christian and Muslim students, and chapels for different sects were provided in portions of the huts.

Because of staff shortages it was not possible during 1948 to commence the post-primary academic courses planned, but this expansion will be undertaken next year.

The initial stages of this scheme were most encouraging and augured well for the development of teacher-training courses on sound lines.

Rural Improvement School, Kanowit. A further free grant of \$275,194 was approved under the Colonial Develop-



Beginners class in Mathematics, Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

ment and Welfare Act for the establishment of a Rural Improvement School at Kanowit in the Third Division.

This scheme was designed to meet the special needs of the large Iban-speaking population, living in the interior of the country, whose educational welfare had in the past been almost completely neglected. In order to improve the living conditions of these peoples it was not sufficient merely to provide schools for the children. It was essential that the adults, both women and men, should be helped simultaneously to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, cooking, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular, and to learn simple arithmetic and elementary civics.

With these objects in view a Rural Improvement School was opened in May, 1948, at Kanowit, which is the economic and administrative centre of a large interior area and is suitably situated for the School to have a considerable demonstration value in addition to fulfilling its primary purpose.

The Agricultural Education Officer, who was well acquainted with the people and their language and customs, was posted as Principal. He was assisted by his wife, who is a trained nurse, five local people as junior staff, and some visiting craft-instructors. 25 married couples, with 19 children, were recruited from various parts of the Colony. During the two-year residential course these couples receive free tuition, board and transport, and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements.

A spacious Community Centre, of an improved "long house" design, was completed. This building provided for classrooms, dining and recreational facilities, a dispensary, a future co-operative shop, and accommodation for the assistant staff and some of the pupils and their families. It was decided that some quarters for pupils should be built as individual homes on model small-holdings. During the course pupils will live in both the "improved Long House" and "individual home" so that, through practical experience, they may form opinions as to which system would be the more suitable for adoption in their home areas.

The School occupies a site of some 200 acres, one-quarter of which is to be reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the Colony, is to be used to demonstrate

improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations. Very good progress was made with the construction of roads, drains and irrigation works, and a large and varied planting programme was completed during the 1948 season. Buffaloes, cattle, goats, pigs and poultry of good local stock were purchased to form the nucleus of a stock improvement scheme.

The physique and general health of the pupils and their children showed a rapid and marked improvement, and a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism prevailed. Within their traditional mode of life it was possible to organise an administrative committee which included elected representatives of the pupils.

This scheme provides a most interesting experiment in Adult Education of a lengthy and comprehensive type. The course is well designed to fulfil the aims of the training and it has made a promising start; but it remains to be seen how successful the pupils will be, when they return to their homes, in spreading the new ideas amongst their neighbours who have not received any such instruction.

Health

ADMINISTRATION

Staff

The senior staff approved for the Medical and Health Department was a Director, seven Medical Officers, one Lady Medical Officer, two Assistant Medical Officers, a Matron, a Sanitary Superintendent, a Sister Tutor, a Health Sister and three Nursing Sisters.

During the year three new Medical Officers and a Nursing Sister arrived from the United Kingdom and one of the posts of Nursing Sister was filled locally by the promotion of a serving officer, the first appointment of its kind in the Department.

At the end of the year the strength of the Department was greater than it had ever been before, consisting of, apart from the Director, four Medical Officers, a Lady Medical Officer, two Assistant Medical Officers, a Matron and two Nursing Sisters.

Unfortunately it was not found possible to fill any of the other vacant posts. A local married lady, who at one time was a member of the Malayan Nursing Service, acted part time as Sister Tutor but in September she left Sarawak.

It had been decided early in the year that the Sarawak Medical and Health Department would be responsible, after the end of 1948, for providing medical and nursing staff to the neighbouring state of Brunei, which had previously obtained such staff by secondment from the Federation of Malaya. In consequence, at the end of the year, a Medical Officer was seconded to Brunei thus reducing by one the number of medical officers available in Sarawak.

Recruitment of local personnel proved difficult. The establishment of dressers and nurses was increased to allow for the implementation of schemes for expanded services, but it was not found possible to fill this establishment and, at the end of the year there were still vacancies for dressers and vacancies for probationer nurses.

There were a greater number of recruits for the nursing service than there were for training as dressers. The accommodation available in the Nurses' Home at Kuching was barely sufficient and a new wing, providing accommodation for ten nurses was added in the early part of the year. An additional wing to accommodate twenty-four is projected for 1949.

A senior nurse was granted, under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship Scheme, a scholarship to undertake the full nursing course in the United Kingdom. She left the Colony in October, 1948 and her services will be lost to the Department for three, and possibly four, years. Nevertheless on her return she will greatly strengthen the local nursing service and will do much towards raising its standard.

A local man was also awarded a Government scholarship to attend a course in dentistry at the King Edward VII College of Medicine, Singapore, with a view to his joining the Department on qualification. Also towards the end of the year two members of the Department were sent to Singapore to take the course for the examination for the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. They will greatly strengthen this important section of the Department which is at present weak.

Legislation

It was still, in 1948, not found possible to enact a Public Health Ordinance and public health legislation remains weak.

A new Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance was enacted during the year with the object of replacing the old one which was, in certain respects, inadequate and unsuitable to modern conditions. This Ordinance was not yet operative at the end of the year as the necessary administrative arrangements were incomplete.

A short Ordinance to amend the Poisons and Deleterious Drugs Ordinance was enacted. Its purpose was to provide for penalties for the selling of scheduled poisons without a licence. It also empowered the Governor in Council to amend the Schedules to the Ordinance by notification in the *Gazette*. The object of this latter provision was to enable the sulphonamide drugs and penicillin to be added to the schedules and to be brought under some control.

Finance

The expenditure on medical and health services during the year was \$989,531 as compared with \$970,583 in 1947.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES

Malaria

No reports were received during the year of malaria having reached epidemic proportions anywhere in the Colony. It is, however, endemic throughout the country. The total number of cases diagnosed at hospitals and dispensaries as malaria was 13,176 and the number of deaths attributed to this cause was 118. The comparable figures for 1947 were 18,182 and 104 respectively. As in 1947, the diagnosis, in most cases, was made without microscopical aid and these figures, therefore, provide no sound basis on which to found conclusions either as to the incidence of the disease or its relative intensity in various parts of the Colony.

The main malaria vectors are, possibly, *A. leucosphyrus*, *A. sundiacus* and *A. umbrosus*, and control measures, which are undertaken in the main centres, are directed against these species. However, very little accurate information exists regarding malaria and its vectors in Sarawak.

In June 1947, a Research Scheme (No. R. 158) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts was approved to provide a sum of £20,800 for the carrying out of a malaria

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Advanced class reading romanised Dayak. Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

Research Survey in the territories of North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei over a period of three years. The team carrying out the research has its headquarters in Labuan, North Borneo and, during 1948, worked there and on the mainland of North Borneo, but did not find it possible to visit Sarawak.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 1,096 and 370 deaths were attributed to this cause. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,090 and 211. The majority of the cases were of the pulmonary form.

The figures for 1948 do not indicate any substantial increased incidence of this infection over the previous year. Nevertheless tuberculosis remains a major problem the full extent of which can only be ascertained by a systematic survey which it is hoped it will be possible to undertake in the near future.

Bed accommodation for the isolation and care of the tuberculous still falls far short of what is necessary. It is planned to increase in 1949 the number of tuberculosis beds in the Kuching General Hospital and, as opportunity arises, at other centres as well.

Leprosy

The number of new cases diagnosed during the year was 67 all of which were segregated in the Leper Settlement. Cases come from nearly all parts of the Colony, from towns as well as rural areas, although the disease appears in higher incidence in the northern part of the delta of the Rejang River, than in other districts.

The three main racial groups, the Dayaks, Chinese and Malays are all represented in the Settlement but Dayak and Chinese, both absolutely and relatively, are more strongly represented.

Comparison of the Settlement populations for the year under review and the previous year, with the populations in pre-war years, does not suggest that there has been an increased incidence during or since the Japanese occupation.

In the latter part of the year the treatment of one hundred selected cases in the Settlement with sulphatrone was initiated.

Yaws

This is one of the more prevalent infections and is widespread throughout the Colony affecting mainly the Malays and the Dayaks. A total of 16,578 cases were diagnosed and treated as compared with 15,136 in the previous year. Treatment, however, in the majority of cases, was not sufficiently prolonged for cure to be effected, as patients not living close to a dispensary are reluctant to make return visits or to remain at the dispensary long enough to receive a course of treatment. Treatment was by arsenical drugs and it is probable that many cases were rendered non-infectious by the treatment they received.

Veneral Diseases

These diseases are common throughout the country but there is no evidence to suggest that the incidence is unusually high.

Diphtheria

This disease, which past records show to have occurred in substantial incidence, was not unduly prevalent during the year. The number of cases was 249 and there were 23 deaths. This compares with 279 cases and 14 deaths in the previous year.

In Kuching there were 134 cases as compared with 149 in 1947. Immunisation of children was commenced in Kuching and nearly 2,500 were given injections of diphtheria toxoid.

The Enteric Fevers

Fewer cases of these infectious diseases were diagnosed during 1948 than in the previous year. A total of 153 cases were recorded as compared with 279 in 1947.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea

As is to be expected these terms figured largely in the outstations dispensary returns, but there is little information available as to the causative agents.

Helminthiasis

Ascaris infestation is extremely common and so, too, is hookworm infection. The latter is, however, not frequently diagnosed because of the lack, in the smaller stations, of microscopical aid.

Typhus

There is no record of epidemic typhus having occurred in the country and the few cases of endemic typhus reported in past years appear to have been diagnosed on clinical grounds. No cases were diagnosed in 1948.

Smallpox, Plague and Cholera

No cases of these major epidemic diseases occurred in the Colony during the year.

Deficiency Diseases

The deficiency diseases which figure in hospital returns are beri-beri and pellagra, the former much more frequently than the latter. However, the figures are not large, 75 cases of beri-beri and 2 cases of pellagra being treated in the two Government hospitals.

Nevertheless, malnutrition in varying degree is common, and a great deal of debility associated with a low standard of feeding was seen in cases attending the Female out-patient Department in Kuching. In Rural areas too, although exact information is lacking, low nutritional standards obtain, especially at certain times of the year when stocks of stored rice are low and the new harvest is not yet ready.

Much careful investigation is required before the extent of undernourishment can be properly appreciated and measures devised to rectify it.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH

The Government operates two hospitals and twenty-four dispensaries; two dispensaries more than in the previous year. The dispensaries vary from elementary centres from which simple drugs and dressings are dispensed to more elaborate structures containing up to a maximum of sixteen rest beds. The majority have beds and the average number is about six.

The Sarawak Oilfields Limited at Miri operates its own hospital of about 137 beds, primarily for its employees but, also, by arrangement, for the general population.

There are no medical missions in the country but, at a few mission stations outpatient treatment is provided and, at two, inpatients are cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

The Fifth Division of Sarawak receives, in addition to the services provided by the three dispensaries in the Division, certain services from the neighbouring state of Brunei. By arrangement with the Brunei Government, the State Medical Officer pays a monthly visit to the Dispensary at Limbang, the administrative headquarters of the Fifth Division, and people in the Division may, on the recommendation of the dressers, be sent to Brunei town for hospital treatment.

General Hospital, Kuching

This is the largest and most developed hospital in the Colony and it is the training centre for dressers, nurses and midwives. It had in operation during the year a total of 367 beds of which 194 were for general medical and surgical cases, 17 for maternity cases, 26 for children, 30 for tuberculosis cases and 100 for cases of mental illness. Accommodation for 50 additional beds exists but, owing to shortage of staff and equipment, it was not possible to bring them into use.

The mental section, which serves the whole Colony, is not satisfactory either in siting or standard of accommodation and this special work is seriously hampered by lack of trained staff. Also the accommodation is proving to be insufficient to meet the demand and, with 103 inmates at the end of the year, was overtaxed.

The Radiological Department remains unsatisfactory as the new plant, ordered in 1946, still had not arrived at the end of the year. The existing plant has faults which render it unable to meet completely the needs of the institution. It is, however, the only X-ray plant in the Colony.

The Laboratory is much more satisfactory and, except as regards pathology, adequately meets the needs of the hospital and, in fact, the Colony in its present state of development.

Central Dispensary, Kuching

This consists of male and female sections and is, in fact, the outpatient department of the General Hospital. Until recently only the female section was located in the centre of the town but additional accommodation was made available and the male section was transferred from the General Hospital and combined in the same building with the female section. At the same time a larger pharmacy was provided and a small clinical laboratory. This was a more satisfactory

arrangement which has been reflected in increased attendances.

The Central Dispensary is linked by ambulance service with the General Hospital. Total attendances at the Dispensary were 45,918 as compared with 34,795 in 1947.

Ante Natal and Infant Welfare Centre, Kuching

Until September this work was, perforce, combined with general out-patient treatment. However, with the provision of additional accommodation a start was made with this important work on formal lines as a separate entity. The work was hampered by lack of staff but progress was sufficient to indicate that the development of this service will be rapid when adequate staff becomes available. Total attendances for the last four months of the year numbered 469.

Lau King Hau Hospital, Sibü

This hospital serves the Third Division, the largest and most productive administrative division of the Colony. At the beginning of the year it consisted of fifty general and maternity beds, but with reorganisations and additional building it now has fifty general, five maternity and seven infectious diseases beds. In addition there is accommodation for 6 lepers while awaiting transportation to the Leper Settlement in Kuching.

In October an additional medical officer was posted to Sibü making a total of two medical officers. It was not found possible to recruit a nursing sister and nursing was supervised by a senior staff nurse. Additional dressers and an additional nurse were posted to the hospital during the year and staffing, although still not ideal, is much improved.

Operation theatre equipment and laboratory facilities were improved but there is still no X-ray plant.

Total admissions numbered 1,787 as compared with 1,689 in the previous year, but there was a decline in out-patient attendances. New cases numbered 18,542 and total attendances 30,907 as compared with 24,918 and 37,555 in 1947.

There were 157 births in hospital as compared with the previous year's 148.

Outstation Dispensaries

Outstation dispensaries were increased during the year from twenty-two to twenty-four. Total attendances numbered

200,776, an increase in the figure of 131,344 for the previous year. The number of patients admitted to dispensary rest beds was 2,725.

All dispensaries have a staff of at least one dresser and one attendant but in a number of stations, especially where there are duties which entail travelling, at least a second dresser is necessary. In only three outstation dispensaries however, was it possible to provide a second dresser owing to the serious shortage of staff.

The dispensaries are now reasonably equipped with essentials and good work is done. Their function is to deal with simple cases and to forward to the hospitals patients requiring more elaborate care and treatment. However, in the more remote stations this is not possible and the responsibilities thrown on the dressers are considerable. It is to their credit that they cheerfully accept, these responsibilities and do extremely good work.

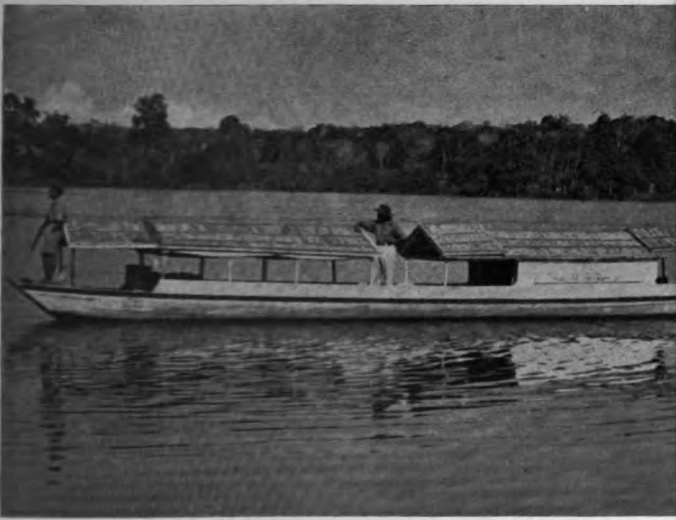
Travelling Dispensaries (Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D830)

The low population density in the Colony and the wide dispersal of the people make it inevitable that, in spite of the hospitals and dispensaries already referred to, much of the population is remote from any form of medical service. Thus a plan for the provision of medical aid to remote areas by means of travelling dispensaries was prepared in 1947 and a sum of \$670,000 was approved from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds to implement the plan.

The scheme is to set up two ordinary outstation dispensaries and sixteen mobile dispensaries. As the population of the Colony is generally located on the banks of the rivers and streams it was planned that these latter would be in boats—native type *perahu* powered by outboard motors—which would ply on fixed stretches of river, calling at convenient points on fixed days each week. It was planned that there would be a dresser in each *perahu*, that ordinary outpatient dispensary treatment would be provided and that, in addition, the boats would serve as river ambulances.

The first travelling dispensary started operating from Sibu in March and the second from Kuching in June. Their performance, especially that of the latter, has been most encouraging, giving confirmation to the soundness of the





The Travelling Dispensary which operates on the



The Dresser of the Travelling Dispensary attending on a young Davak girl.

scheme, and augurs well for the standard of service which will be provided when the scheme is implemented in full.

These boats took medical treatment regularly to areas previously little visited by medical staff and were much appreciated by the people. Total cases treated by Travelling Dispensary No. 1 (from Sibu) during nine months was 3,792 while those treated by Travelling Dispensary No. 2 (from Kuching) numbered 11,876. Each boat worked to a schedule which was maintained with remarkable regularity, calling at the same place on the same day each week. Each circuit involved four to five days travelling according to circumstances.

Training of dressers for the scheme proceeds and, although many difficulties are foreseen there is confidence that the scheme will develop as planned.

Leper Settlement

This institution is sited thirteen miles from Kuching and is accessible by motor road. The number of inmates at the end of the year was 384 as compared with 352 at 31st December, 1947.

There are two concrete buildings,—the Hospital and the Administrative Block, and two new, substantial, wooden barrack blocks. The remainder of the buildings are small houses of native type.

Extensive rehabilitation of buildings was not attempted during the year as consideration was being given to the establishment of a central institution to serve the three Borneo Territories. Considerable repairs were however carried out.

There is no resident medical staff although it was found possible to appoint a part time Medical Officer-in-Charge who exercised general supervision through a Superintendent, the most senior dresser in the Department.

The institution was under closer medical care than previously which was reflected in a brighter, tidier atmosphere and higher morale of the inmates.

Inmates are encouraged to cultivate land in the vicinity and many do so. Others operate small shops and some are employed in the hospital and in general labour.

There is a school, which, through the co-operation of the Education Department, showed considerable progress; a church, a mosque and a Chinese Temple.

Pauper Camp

This institution is sited some twelve miles from Kuching and serves the whole Colony. It has accommodation for one hundred male paupers in four barrack type buildings. These were in poor condition at the beginning of the year but fairly extensive repairs and alterations were carried out and much was done to improve the Camp and the lot of the inmates.

Before the year closed the institution had been brought to a reasonably satisfactory standard.

GENERAL SANITATION

Sewage Disposal

There are no major schemes for the water borne disposal of sewage. In the towns of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have private septic tank installations. This apart, the bazaar areas of these towns have a bucket night soil service. In the congested areas of Kuching there is general absence of sanitary lanes and inadequate access to premises. Until such areas are replanned their sanitary condition will be difficult to improve. Outside the towns and wherever it is possible, latrines are built over river and creeks.

Scavenging

In all towns and townships refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness. In Kuching the work is undertaken by the Municipality.

Water Supplies

The main towns and various small townships have piped supplies collected from controlled catchment areas, but except at Sibü the water is untreated. Here the supply is drawn from the Rejang River and subjected to precipitation and chlorination.

Elsewhere rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population. These latter sources are often open to contamination and deserve attention.

Food

The methods of manufacture of food products and the conditions of storage and sale of food leave much to be desired.

Many of the premises are insanitary and many businesses are conducted without regard to hygiene. This problem seems likely to remain unsolved until trained sanitary staff is available.

Housing

In town areas the trading section of the community lives in two or three storey brick shophouses constructed in rows in the bazaar areas. The ground floor is used for business, and the upper part as living quarters. In some districts the shophouses are turned into tenements, all available space both on the ground floor and upstairs being used as living quarters by artisans, labourers, hawkers and others, who prefer to live close to their places of employment. Overcrowding in premises often deficient in ventilation and light often results. In parts of the old bazaar area of Kuching, the shophouses are back to back with no intervening back lanes.

In the less developed areas of the Kuching Municipal area there are many buildings with plank walls, leaf attap roofing and earth floor, or plank flooring raised off the ground. These have been erected and are occupied mainly by Chinese squatters paying nominal rental to the owners of the land, or on Government reserves either on temporary permits or without authority. Almost all these huts were erected before building regulations came into force, and the number increased during the Japanese occupation. Sanitation is not satisfactory. A few houses are provided with a piped water supply but many draw water from public standpipes or shallow wells. Proper drains are often absent.

In the Malay areas the buildings are usually of timber construction with wooden shingles or leaf attap roofing. The humbler ones may also have leaf attap walling. These buildings are usually raised eight to ten feet off the ground and are fairly airy and well ventilated. Each stands in its own little plot of ground.

Certain sections of Government employees are housed in terrace quarters, some of modern design built of brick or concrete and others of timber.

The higher salaried classes usually own and occupy dwelling houses of masonry or timber standing in their own compounds. The sanitary conditions are generally satisfactory. European type bungalows are occupied by Government officers, heads of commercial firms and well-to-do Asiatics.

In the larger outstations the types of houses approximate to those found in the Kuching Municipal area. The smaller stations tend towards the use of locally procured materials for house building.

Further inland in the Kayan and Dayak villages can be found the typical communal longhouses of the interior peoples which are in effect rows of from 10 to 60 houses all under one roof. These are of hardwood frames sometimes of immense size and variously furnished with plank walls and hardwood shingle roofs, or with leaf mat and thatch. Water in these areas is taken direct from the rivers and sanitation is of primitive type. These long-houses are invariably raised some 10 to 20 feet above the ground (occasionally as much as 40 feet). All refuse goes through the floor and is almost immediately disposed of by the pigs and poultry on the ground below. These upriver villages follow immemorial custom in their construction as their inhabitants do in their way of life.

The housing position in Kuching has caused concern owing to the overcrowded condition of the bazaar areas, and to the large number of squatters both on private and on Crown lands. The prohibitive price of building at the present time has driven many persons into sharing houses thus increasing the overcrowding.

A survey of housing conditions in sections of Kuching was undertaken and the preliminary report indicates a considerable degree of overcrowding. A more comprehensive report is expected early in 1949 which should provide material on which a general housing scheme can be based.

A Committee was appointed during the year to consider the question of squatters many of whom had grouped themselves into small communities on Crown or communal lands. A subsequent survey by the Health Department showed that no less than 171 houses were in a dangerous or insanitary condition and approximately another 100 were in need of major repairs.

With regard to Government housing, the main difficulties are lack of materials and skilled labour. Eight new bungalows, a ten-door barrack for the Constabulary Department and two ten-door barracks for the Municipality were completed during the year.

Certain areas within the Municipality have been zoned in accordance with the recommendations of the Town Planning Committee. The effect of such zoning has been to

prohibit the erection of buildings of inferior materials which would lower the amenities of the districts concerned.

Social Welfare

Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department. This does not mean that the Government of Sarawak performs no social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of women and girls and administers a repatriation vote. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund to which the Government contributes. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Settlement.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a Community life. The "long house" system ensures that the individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the padi harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own Associations which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Government Pauper Settlement near Kuching. In Sibü, thanks to the efforts of a committee consisting of members of all communities, a Benevolent Society has been established. This Society, aided by a grant from Government and with considerable assistance from the Roman Catholic Mission in respect of nursing staff and supervision runs its own nursing home for the indigent and is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain outstations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs societies and Youth organisations, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

A Social Welfare Advisory Committee was formed in 1947 and has done good work. The Committee meets regularly and deals with all aspects of Government welfare. It advises Government on Social Welfare policy and practice.

Juvenile delinquency exists in the principal towns. A start has been made to tackle the problem in Kuching. At the beginning of 1948 a Boys' Home was opened and juvenile offenders were removed from the prison to the Home. There were at the end of the year 16 boys accommodated in a temporary building which is on a pleasant site about three miles from the town. Plans are now being prepared for moving the Home to a larger site nearby and for improving and increasing the accommodation.

The boys cook their own meals, keep the premises clean and tidy and wash and mend their own clothes. In the morning the boys work at the Kuching Dairy Farm which is nearby and in the afternoon they receive instruction in reading and writing and simple arithmetic.

There are facilities for outdoor and indoor games; there is neither locked door nor barbed wire fence and the whole atmosphere of the Home is devoid of any suggestion that it is a place of detention.

The Kuching Rotary Club performed useful voluntary social services during the year. Visiting Committees paid regular visits to the Boys' Home, Leper Camp, Pauper Camp and Prison. The Prisoners' Aid Committee interviews all prisoners due for release and assists necessitous cases with tools, clothes and cash and endeavours to find work for them. The Club also supplies sports equipment for the Boys' Home.

The Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society which was inaugurated in 1947 made steady progress in 1948. Its activities were limited to the Kuching area where all communities participated in the work. Teaching of first aid was commenced, a blood transfusion panel was established and a ladies work party did a considerable amount of sewing for the hospital and other institutions in the area.

An ambulance service in Kuching and the First Division was planned, and towards the end of the year a very generous donation was received by the Branch from the parent body in London to enable this service to be initiated in 1949. The parent body also agreed to send a Red Cross organiser to the Colony and to bear the cost for one year.



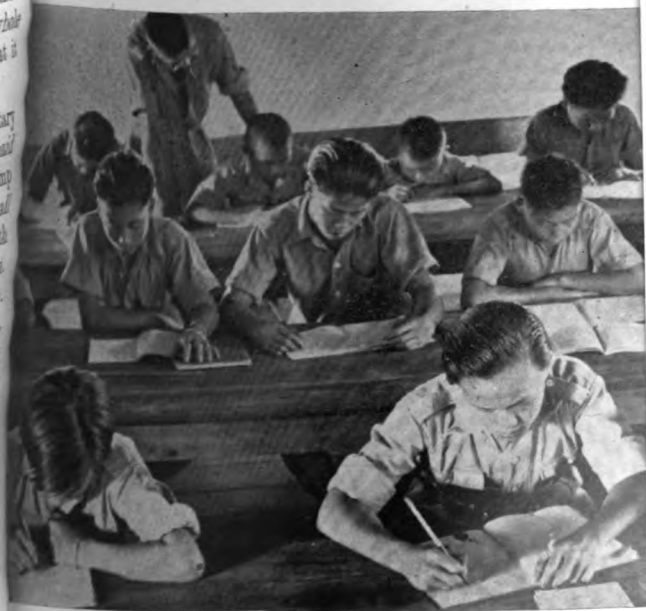
Boys Home, Kuching.



Boys Home, Kuching.



Cutting firewood at the Boys' Home, Kuching.



A lesson in writing at the Boys' Home, Kuching.

CHAPTER

Legislative

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CHAPTER 8

Legislation

An important step towards putting the statute book in order was completed during 1948 by the publication of the Revised Edition of the Laws of the Colony, in three volumes, prepared by the Chief Justice in accordance with the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1946. This edition was approved by proclamation and brought into force by order of the Governor on the 19th April, 1948. This Revised Edition replaces collections of laws and orders which were known as the "Green Book" and the "Red Book" and incorporates the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. The importance of this step, perhaps, is only fully realised by those who have occasion frequently to refer to the laws of the Colony.

An obstacle to legislative progress is that, owing to the difficulties of communication and the distances that have to be travelled, it is not, as a rule, possible for the Council Negri—the legislative body of the Colony—to meet more than twice a year. Some members in order to attend meetings of Council Negri have to travel about 400 miles by river and sea, a journey which can take several days.

The policy during 1948, as in 1947, was, in addition to the introduction of new laws required for the political, economic and social development of the Colony, to make necessary amendments to the existing laws.

At the two meetings of Council Negri twenty-three Ordinances were enacted, of these fifteen amended or repealed and replaced existing Ordinances and the remainder dealt with new matters.

The more important Ordinances enacted were—

The Controlled Goods Ordinance which repealed and replaced a Military Proclamation (providing for price control) and four sets of rules under the Defence Regulations; and made provision for controlling the prices and movement of essential commodities.

The Revised Edition of the Laws (Additional Volumes) Ordinance which makes provision for a revised

edition of subsidiary legislation. The Chief Justice is the Commissioner for the purpose of preparing the additional volumes which will be in loose-leaf form and the Attorney-General is empowered to prepare from time to time amending pages so that each additional volume may be amended and brought up to date. The Chief Justice has made much progress with this revision and it is expected that the first of these additional volumes will be completed and published early in 1949.

The Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance which repealed the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance which had been passed in 1934. The object in replacing this Ordinance was to consolidate the benefits of the recent census by making better and more detailed provision for obtaining vital statistics. Considerable difficulty was found when drafting this Ordinance, as has been found when drafting other Ordinances and will be for some time to come, in creating a system which would be equally applicable and efficient in the developed Municipal areas on the one hand and in the primitive up-river areas on the other.

The Local Authority Ordinance which repealed and replaced the Rural Areas Ordinance and the Native Administration Ordinance and provided machinery which will permit full development of Local Government throughout the Colony.

The Women and Girls Protection Ordinance which repealed and replaced the existing Ordinance which was enacted in 1927. This Ordinance was so deficient and required so much amendment that the only practical course was to repeal and replace it.

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance which became necessary as a Co-operative Department was about to be established in the Colony and the old Ordinance was out of date.

The Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance the principal object of which was to make more detailed provision with regard to the committal of youthful offenders to the Kuching Boys' Home; at the same time opportunity was taken to make several other desirable or necessary amendments.

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The Constabulary Ordinance which replaces the Constabulary Ordinance of 1932, and makes some important additions and amendments, particularly as to discipline, the employment of extra police officers and the formation of a Special Constabulary.

There are still many legislative reforms required but during the year the Attorney-General has been without an assistant and as new laws are enacted the volume of subsidiary legislation to be drafted and the advice required by Government departments increases correspondingly. The post of Assistant Attorney-General has now been approved and it is hoped that an appointment will be made during the year 1949. This should make it possible to carry out a larger legislative programme.

CHAPTER 9

Justice, Police and Prisons

Justice

Sarawak Law is to be found partly in Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, but mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. The many indigenous tribes have their own *adat* or customary law, and in some cases native customs have been embodied in Codes. Among the best known of these Codes are the Malay Undang-Undang and the Tusun Tunggu, the latter being a Code of Sea Dayak (Iban) Fines in use in the Third Division. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance, is recognized to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance. Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts are required to apply English Law "in so far as it is applicable to Sarawak having regard to native customs and local conditions."

The law of Sarawak is administered in two sets of Courts—the ordinary Courts and the Native Courts. Both have civil and criminal jurisdiction. The two hierarchies are defined in the Courts Ordinance, as affected by the Circuit Courts Ordinance, 1948, and the Native Courts Ordinance respectively. The Chief Justice constitutes the Supreme Court. During the year Circuit Courts, to which most of the work of the Residents' Courts was transferred, were established and two Circuit Judges were appointed. The Circuit Courts have unlimited jurisdiction in almost all matters, whether civil or criminal. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and customs, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

The Supreme Court Library in Kuching suffered during the period of Japanese occupation. Replacements have been made and new books purchased, but the Library must still be

regarded as falling a long way short of what is desired. A smaller Library is being established for the use of the Judge of the Second Circuit Court whose headquarters are in Sibü.

Police

The Sarawak Constabulary at the end of 1948 consisted of 8 gazetted officers, 19 inspectors and 1,037 non-commissioned officers and men, including 155 recruits. It is the only armed force in the Colony.

Only four Gazetted Officers were available for duty during a great part of the year as two were on leave and two in training. The supervision of outstations and attention to the welfare of the men necessarily suffered. Progress can be recorded however. Conditions of service were improved and there was a further substantial reduction in the incidence of crime. That the increases in pay, published on the 1st October 1948, were urgently needed was shown by the high rate of resignations, which averaged 9.33 a month during the first nine months. During the last three months there were only seven resignations in all.

In view of the type of recruit enlisted during the year the Training School at the Depot has done remarkably well. A very high percentage of the men enlisted are almost or totally illiterate. They are given a 12-month course in elementary education and are in addition instructed in the rudiments of law and police work and trained up to a high standard in drill and musketry. The system is still far from perfect and is constantly under review. Many of the instructors are young and inexperienced, the weakness being most apparent in instruction in police work and law. Versions of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code in Malay have now been issued and further instructional books are being prepared. The preparation and translation of such books mean much heavy work for the present limited staff.

Progress in education was not confined to recruits. The number of other members of the force classified as illiterate has been reduced from 562 to 369 during the year and many others have passed qualifying examinations for various stages of promotion. At the end of the year 30 members of the force were attending lectures organised by the Medical Department for the First Aid Certificate of the Red Cross Society.

The policy of increasing the mobility of the force and reducing the number of minor stations continued throughout

the year and fourteen minor stations were closed down. Care is being taken not to carry the concentration of forces too far as this would tend to divorce the police from the people and to make the aid of the police less easily available when required.

Offences against discipline were 552 as compared with 631 in 1947. Many were of a trivial nature and some improvement in discipline may be claimed. The number of dismissals for breach of discipline was 15 as compared with 35. The discipline of the force, however, cannot yet be regarded as satisfactory. This is very largely due to the fact that many of the non-commissioned officers are still illiterate. Some are untrainable and a real improvement cannot be expected until they are replaced by a younger generation.

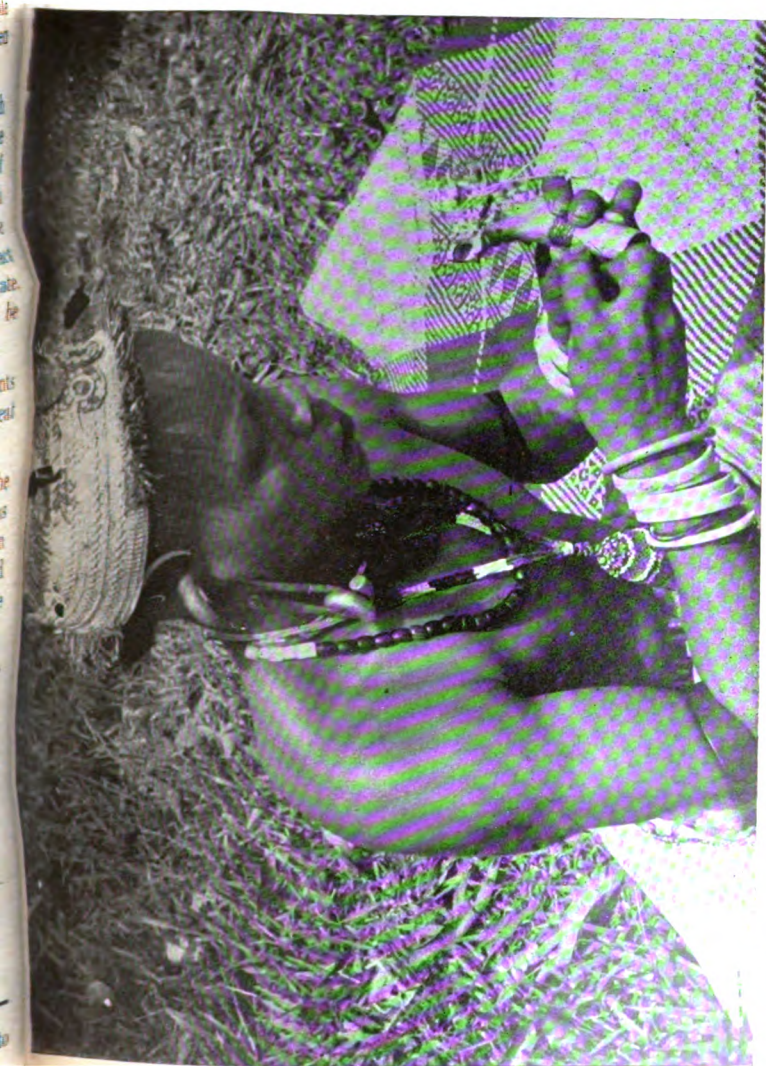
The Constabulary Band received a new set of instruments of high quality during the year and is proving itself a great asset to the force.

There has been a further reduction in crime during the year and the tendency to resort to violence noted in 1947 has diminished. There were 11 murders as compared with 16 in 1947, 6 robberies as compared with 32, and 38 aggravated assaults as compared with 68. The principal figures are those for the following offences against property :—

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Reports.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>	<i>Ratio of reports to convictions.</i>
Theft and Theft in Dwelling	1940	1,371	231	1 to 5.93
	1946	1,653	252	1 to 6.32
	1947	1,036	258	1 to 4.01
	1948	879	259	1 to 3.39
House- breaking	1940	48	6	1 to 8
	1946	97	13	1 to 7.46
	1947	82	24	1 to 3.41
	1948	114	25	1 to 4.56

The increase in housebreaking is believed to be due to the more accurate classification of offences.

It is interesting to note that, despite the natural tendency of complainants to exaggerate their losses, in only 20 cases of theft or theft in a dwelling was property in excess of \$500 stolen. A large proportion of thefts in these categories was



A Kelabit parang maker.

Photograph by Mrs. R. J. Bettison.

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of a very minor nature; in 43% of them the property being valued at \$25 or less.

Although the total number of seizable offences reported have decreased by 128 there was an increase of 85 convictions for such offences and police action designed to ensure observance of the Laws and Regulations of the Colony was greatly increased.

Members of the Constabulary saved 12 persons from drowning, one constable receiving the Testimonial on Vellum of the Royal Humane Society. Another constable received the Testimonial of the Society on Parchment for saving the life of a man who had climbed to a considerable height on an oil derrick and there hanged himself by the neck with a rope. The constable at considerable risk succeeded in bringing the man to the ground where he resuscitated him with artificial respiration.

Continual efforts are being made to improve the efficiency of the Force and it is hoped that by the end of 1949 it will have its full complement of officers and men.

Penal Administration

Prison administration is under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons with headquarters in Kuching. There are four main prisons, situated at Kuching, Simanggang, Sibul and Miri. There are eighteen minor gaols situated in various other parts of the country, but these are now only being used for prisoners serving terms of one month or less; all prisoners serving long sentences are transferred to the divisional prisons.

All prisons are visited monthly by Visiting Boards comprised of magistrates and unofficial representatives of the various communities. The Kuching Rotary Club have formed a voluntary Prisoners' Aid Committee and deal with the rehabilitation of prisoners from the Kuching prison on discharge. The Prison authorities also endeavour to assist in obtaining work for prisoners on discharge.

The majority of the prisoners appear to be happy and contented. The diet has been studied and as from the 1st of January, 1949, additional foodstuffs will supplement the daily rations.

All the prisons in the country, with the exception of those at Kuching and Sibul, are constructed of a very hard local wood known as "belian". Although old, they are generally

speaking in a good state of repair. The prison at Sibü is the only one of fairly modern design.

The Kuching prison is not satisfactory. The building is old and there are no proper facilities for segregation of prisoners or for recreation. Consideration has been given to the construction of a modern central prison but owing to lack of funds this project has been deferred. It is proposed to improve the amenities of the present building during 1949 and to provide additional workshops.

Most prisons are understaffed and the material available for prison staff is poor. Owing to this a certain amount of difficulty in administration was experienced during the year. The conditions of service were improved and it was possible to engage a better type of person.

The total number of prisoners admitted during 1948 as compared with 1947 were as follows :—

		1948	1947
Males	... ..	771	622
Females	... ..	17	7
		<hr/> 788	<hr/> 629

There were 5 executions during the year.

The sentences imposed were as set out below :—

Under 1 month	... ..	285
1 month and less than 3 months	... ..	229
3 months and less than 6 months	... ..	95
6 months and less than 12 months	... ..	72
12 months and less than 18 months	... ..	23
18 months or over	... ..	84

The age groups of prisoners committed were as follows :—

Under 16 years of age	... ..	3
16—20 years of age	... ..	105
20—25 years of age	... ..	149
25—50 years of age	... ..	485
Over 50 years of age	... ..	46

Recidivism

At the end of the year there were 29 recidivists out of a total of 169 prisoners serving sentences in the Colony. There appears to be very few confirmed criminals who are con-

tinually in and out of gaol. It is considered that the position with regard to recidivism is on the whole satisfactory. There is plenty of work available and there should be no need for a person to have to resort to crime when other means of livelihood are so easily obtainable.

Women Prisoners

The women's prison at Bau was reopened during the year and can accommodate 16 prisoners in two association cells. The daily average figure for female prisoners in the year was 2.5. Women prisoners undertake the making and repairing of prison uniforms and bedding, etc. and are under supervision of female warders.

Juvenile Offenders

The Boys' Home for juvenile offenders situated in a very pleasant site on the outskirts of Kuching was completed in March and is now under the management of the Education Department.

Prisoners on Remand

Owing to the lack of facilities for segregation all remand prisoners are kept in the Police Station at divisional headquarters or in the lock-ups in outstations.

Classification of Prisoners

As far as possible habitual offenders are kept separate from first offenders, but this is not always practicable owing to the inadequacy of warders and the type of buildings.

Spiritual Welfare and Education

In the divisional gaols occasional visits have been paid by various members of different religions. There has been no religious instruction during the year. Great interest has been shown by a number of prisoners in education and teachers are now holding evening classes in elementary subjects at Kuching and Sibu gaols. Every endeavour is being made to assist prisoners in educational matters.

Library and Organised Games

A small library has been formed for the use of prisoners. Badminton and volley ball have also been instituted and are very popular with the prisoners during their recreation period.

Health and Diet

The general health of prisoners has been good. A dresser visits the gaols daily and stocks of medicines are kept for general treatment. Simple dressings are carried out on the premises whilst more serious cases are sent to the hospitals. There have been three deaths during the year; these were due to pulmonary tuberculosis. The daily average sick was 4.37 and the daily average number of prisoners in hospital was 3.

Labour

Prisoners are employed daily by the Public Works Department and attend to the vegetable and flower gardens in the Prisons. They also cut firewood, mow Government grounds and engage in basket making. In Kuching a small carpenter's shop produces saleable goods. A small tailor's shop is also in use, repairing and making prison clothing. A tinsmith shop has been established which turns out guttering, piping, etc., for the Public Works Department.

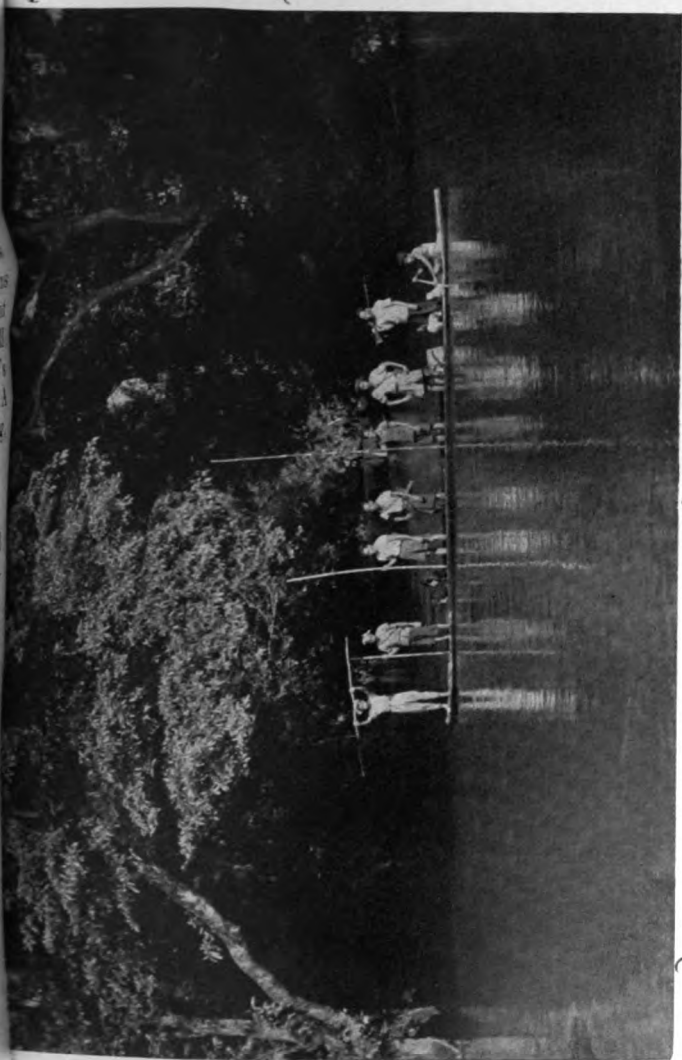
Remission

Remission of sentences is granted to prisoners sentenced to imprisonment exceeding one month. The amount of remission granted at present to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth and those serving over one year one-fourth of the sentence. Female prisoners serving sentences up to one year receive one-sixth and over one year one-third remission of their sentence.

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A Land Dayak hunting party at Palaman (Krusin) Suu.

Photograph by K. E. H. Kay

CHAPTER 10

Public Utilities and Public Works

Electricity Supplies

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. This Company was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibul and Mukah. The Government holds the majority of shares, Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore being the other shareholders and General Managers. The policy of the Company has been a progressive one and their aim is to modernise existing stations and install generating plant in the smaller townships.

Before the war the Company operated generating stations at Kuching, Sibul, Mukah, Sarikei, Binatang, Simanggang and Bintulu, all of which were powered by diesel plant. In Kuching the Company also operated an ice factory. After the war the generating sets in many stations were in a very bad condition due to neglect and lack of maintenance during enemy occupation and in Kuching these sets had been removed.

The Company has since 1945-46 been engaged on the work of restoring these stations and gradually improving the standard of supply to the public. Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, work on rehabilitation and extensions has been slow. During the year work on the Mukah and Bintulu stations was completed and these now maintain a 12-hour supply daily. A new station at Betong also commenced operation. These stations have a 25/50 K.W. capacity only and are primarily for lighting.

At Miri the lighting supply before the war was taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited plant. During the occupation the Japanese had installed a plant at Miri, which they had removed from Jesselton. This was found to be in very bad condition, but a service had been maintained by Government, with difficulty, until 1947, when the plant was reclaimed by the owners. After negotiations with Government and the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company installed equipment at Miri and commenced the supply of a restricted service in December 1947. The station at Miri

(75 K.W.) is fully loaded and further extensions of this station await the conclusion of negotiations between the Government and the oil Company.

During 1947 a new 140 K.W. Alternating Current generating set was ordered for the Sibu station, but up to the end of 1948 this set had not been received. The station (220 K.W.) is fully loaded and extensions which have been planned await delivery of the new plant. It is expected that this will be installed during 1949, and the change over to A.C. will then be carried out.

In Kuching the new 400 K.W. set, partly erected in 1947 is still awaiting further engine parts. An ever increasing demand by the public for electricity in Kuching during the year put a severe strain on the pre-war generating sets. As a result of this, major breakdowns occurred on three occasions during the early part of the year causing partial interruption in the service for several days. The maximum demand on the station for the year was 638 K.W. as against 582 K.W. in 1947, and the number of units generated 1,948,217 as against 1,716,348 in 1947. It is hoped to have the new 400 K.W. set in operation during 1949.

A new 100 K.W. substation was installed at the Ice Works during the year and a further 100 K.W. substation of the Kiosk type was ordered for one of the residential areas.

A 50% surcharge imposed after the re-occupation was discontinued as from the 1st January and a revised rate of 27½ cents per unit for lighting came into effect on that date.

Dockyard and Engineering Services

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works, Kuching, is a publicly owned establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management appointed by the Government.

The dry dock, which was opened in 1921, is 240 feet in length, 40 feet wide at the entrance and vessels up to 9 feet draft can be docked at spring tides. The dock entrance is closed by a steel caisson operated by the rise and fall of the tide, pumping machinery being installed to deal with water below low tide level. A ten ton capacity fixed jib crane, operated by steam, is installed at the dock wharf.

Adjacent to the dry dock is a slipway constructed to accommodate launches up to 40 feet in length and 13 feet beam. There is also a machine shop equipped with a range

of machine tools, electric and oxy-acetylene welding apparatus and a small brass melting furnace. This shop is suitable for general mechanical engineering repairs, comprising maintenance to hulls and machinery of local vessels and public and privately owned plant and equipment.

A staff of 42 permanent employees under a Manager, appointed by the Board, is maintained. This staff has been kept fully employed during the year and a small favourable balance has been obtained over the year's working.

The workshops are being changed from D.C. electrical power to A.C. This has made it possible to fit individual electric motor drive to the machines, thus doing away with the dangerous and uneconomical lineshaft with belt drive to the machines.

During the year 53 vessels were drydocked and 18 launches used the slipway for repairs.

Water Supplies

Kuching

The source of supply is at Matang, a mountain range 3,000 feet in height, about ten miles West of Kuching. The quality of the water is excellent. The collection system consists of diversion dams in four mountain streams and one small impounding reservoir. The dams are at a suitable height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The water is collected and brought to Kuching by open channel and pipe. The pipeline crosses the Sarawak River on a 700 foot span suspension bridge which was erected for this purpose. During heavy rain the control valves at the diversion dams are closed and the water supply is taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching.

It has been necessary to curtail the supply to certain parts of the town for a few hours each day throughout the year. Nevertheless the consumption during 1948 averaged 1,261,500 gallons a day. The main pipeline from Matang is badly corroded and was due for replacement before the war. The first consignment of pipes arrived during 1948 and work on relaying the main began.

The replacement of the Matang pipeline and of one feeder pipeline will give an increased supply to Kuching except during periods of drought. During the drier months of the year the runoff drops below one million gallons a day and

investigations over a period of many years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level.

Sibu

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war was put into partial operation at the beginning of 1947 in Sibu. During 1948 various improvements and additions were made, notably the erection of an electrical power transmission line from the Sibu power station to replace the temporary independent electrical supply.

The mode of operation involved pumping by centrifugal pump from the Rejang River to the purification plant. After purification the water is pumped to storage tanks elevated above the average level of Sibu town, thence by gravity to Sibu bazaar.

The waterworks which serves the whole of Sibu town and outlying districts within the Municipal Area, functioned normally during the year under review. The installation of a second 40,000 gallon high level tank showed a great improvement. It is now possible to maintain a satisfactory continuous 24 hours supply for the town area. The quality of water has also been greatly improved by three rapid sand filters which have been put into operation.

Towards the end of the year pumping hours have been increased from 13½ to 18 a day. The quantity of water supplied daily is approximately 300,000 gallons.

Mukah

The entire water installation including pumps, motors, piping and tanks were removed by the Japanese.

The survey and design for a new supply has been completed. The design provides for a pumped supply through 2½ miles of 7" main, rapid settling tanks, pressure filters and a 50,000 gallon high level tank.

Sarikei and Binatang

The water supply for Sarikei and Binatang has been maintained by the use of a water barge of 36,000 gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu. As there was an unusual amount of rain during the dry months these stations were not inconvenienced and the barge was not in frequent use.

The installation of a piped water supply for these two towns presents many problems. The whole area is low-lying





Melanau girl making hats at Kampong Ska-an, Matu.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

and river and surface water is brackish. A scheme to bring water from about 10 miles inland was carefully investigated in 1940-41 but was not considered satisfactory owing to the high cost and the fact that the available supply was only adequate for current requirements. The only satisfactory alternative would appear to be a pumped supply from Sibuloh where the river water is fresh. As it is at present impossible to proceed further with a scheme of this magnitude, the policy is to improve the water transport service by barge, so that the needs of these two towns can be met until such time as a permanent scheme can be undertaken.

Bintulu

The Bintulu water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos pressure pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000 gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" asbestos pipe acts as a distributing main. Essential maintenance has been carried out during the year but no major reconstruction has been possible.

Miri

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. water main under pre-war arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply the European houses on Tanjong Lobang.

PUBLIC WORKS

As in 1947 a large part of the expenditure approved for public works in 1948 was spent on restoration of buildings and services and on the construction of new buildings.

In Kuching one new block of police barracks comprising ten married quarters were erected at the Badrudin Road site at a cost of \$20,540, approximately \$3,500 less than the cost of a similar building erected on this site in 1947. At the Police Depot a block of barracks of similar design but containing seven married quarters was built for the sum of \$16,750. These are timber buildings, raised above ground, providing two living rooms and a common verandah. A separate building with concrete floor provides a separate kitchen for each family and adequate bathing and latrine accommodation.

Two labourers quarters of the same design were almost completed at the end of the year for the Municipality and two others for waterworks staff were constructed at Matang.

A scheme to provide a Teacher Training School at Batu Lintang was approved and a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund sanctioned. Twenty-four of the ex-military buildings were reconstructed and 18 additional new buildings were erected at a total cost of \$48,495. This work was completed early in the year.

In Kuching, eight quarters for senior officers were constructed and at the General Hospital three quarters for dressers and an extension to the Nurses Home were completed.

In the Second Division, a number of new buildings were constructed and with many minor works kept the staff stationed in the Division fully employed. The new buildings constructed included Native Officers' quarters, Senior officers' quarters, wharves at Simanggang and Saratok, and Junior Service quarters.

Good progress was made in the Third Division with the work of rehabilitation. The reconstruction programme for Mukah was completed and the construction of the new station at Song, started in 1947, was finished early in the year.

At Sibul, Sarikei and Binatang Junior Service quarters, police barracks and new bazaar shops of approved design were completed.

The Fourth Division was badly hit by enemy and allied action and work to ease the pressing need for quarters, office buildings and godowns has been continued. A new wireless station, Junior Service quarters, Police barracks and Forest Rangers quarters were built at Miri.

Work still in progress at the end of the year included Government quarters at Miri and the reconstruction of a wharf at Bintulu.

In the Fifth Division, building construction was slow owing to a shortage of skilled carpenters and the scarcity of good quality hardwood. Several buildings were however erected during the year.

The shortage of technical staff remains a serious handicap. One civil engineer arrived on first appointment in May and after 6 months duty in Kuching was posted to Miri as Divisional Engineer, Fourth and Fifth Divisions. The Department is still below the approved establishment and every effort is being made to fill the vacant appointments. All members of the staff have co-operated willingly in the effort to tackle a heavy programme of works.

CHAPTER 11

Communications

Water

The rivers and sea afford the principal means of communication. Steamship services ply between Kuching and coastal ports and also serve Sibü and other Rejang River ports. In addition numerous powered small craft, mainly Chinese owned, carry passengers and cargo up and down the various rivers. Smaller boats, often driven by outboard motors, make their way far into the interior.

Sailings were maintained regularly throughout the year between Sarawak and Singapore by the Sarawak Steamship Company and the Straits Steamship Company. A weekly service was also maintained between Kuching, the Rejang River and Miri.

The Sarawak Steamship Company's new vessel, the T.S.M.V. "Rajah Brooke", arrived in June and was placed on the run between Kuching and Singapore. The vessel was designed specially for this service and is luxuriously fitted out. She has a displacement of 2,312 tons and can accommodate 40 first class passengers. For a few months this vessel attempted to maintain the Kuching and Singapore run with a ten day service, but before the end of the year there was a revision to the regular weekly service with two vessels.

Ships going from Singapore to North Borneo resumed calling at Pending (five miles down river from Kuching) early in the year. One call at Pending a month each way was made. About the middle of the year the Moller line commenced a service from Singapore coastwise to North Borneo with occasional calls at Kuching. For some months during the middle of the year one of the vessels maintained a direct service between Singapore and Limbang and Lawas in the Fifth Division. This service was very helpful and was missed when the vessel was withdrawn.

In addition to the regular weekly services, vessels called at Kuching with rice from Bangkok. The shipping of logs and timber from the Rejang River increased during the year, vessels calling about once a month and towards the end of the

year twice a month. In all 17 vessels called at Tanjong Mani to load logs mainly for Australia. The tonnage of vessels entering and leaving Sarawak from and to foreign ports during the year was 1,600,699 tons and 1,379,674 tons, respectively.

Coastal trade and communications were maintained fairly regularly by locally owned small craft between Kuching and the main coastal ports; about two sailings weekly on the average. The Sarawak Steamship Company maintained services between Kuching, Sibu, Bintulu, Miri and Baram.

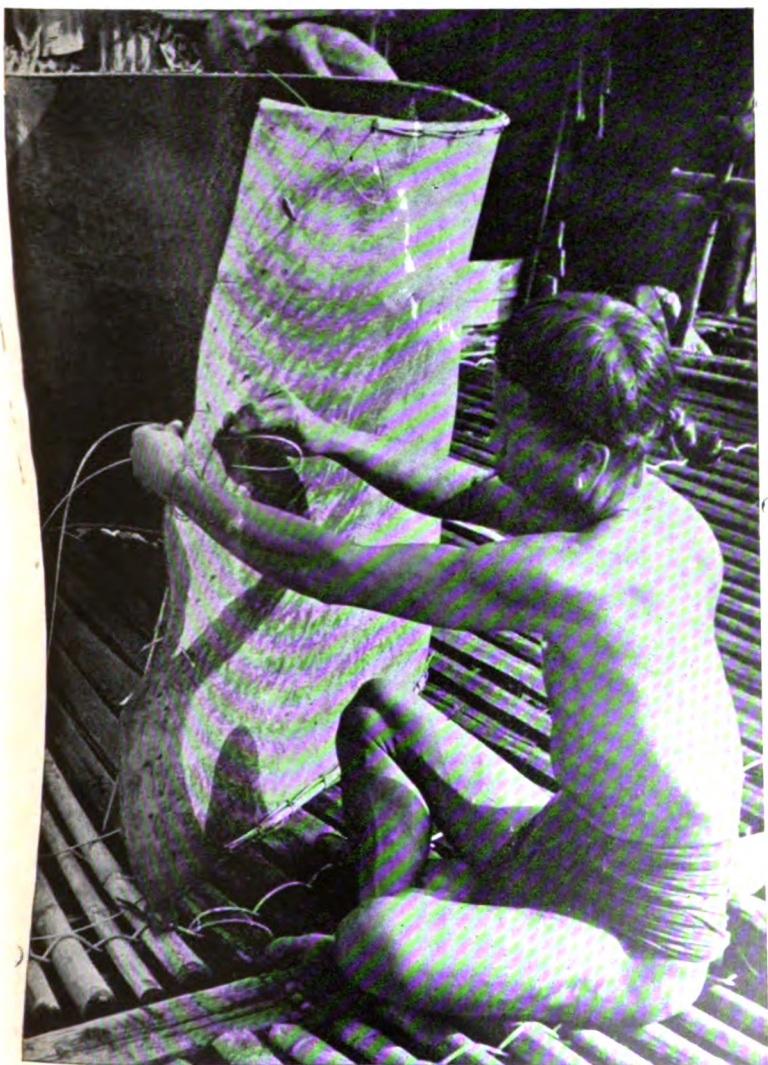
A Government owned vessel was placed on the Kuching/Fifth Division run and towards the end of the year also included Brunei.

A few minor casualties occurred to local coastal craft during the year. An American LCT was washed ashore near Balingian in January, having broken away from her moorings somewhere in the Philippines during a storm. She had drifted all the way without crew or lights.

Air

Throughout the year regular air communication between Singapore, Kuching, Labuan and Jesselton has been maintained by Sunderland Flying Boats of the Royal Air Force, using the Sarawak River at Pending. Land based aircraft have not been used except for survey flights by Malayan Airways, the Royal Air Force and the United States Air Force. On these occasions the aircraft have successfully landed and taken off from a landing ground which lies seven miles to the South of Kuching. A unit of the United States Air Force has operated during several months of the year from this strip, in connection with air survey work. This landing ground is not considered satisfactory for regular air communications, and the whole future development of air communications in Sarawak hinges on the completion of a new airfield now under construction in Kuching.

Before the war, two landing grounds suitable for the operation of lighter types of aircraft existed at Miri and Kuching. On the resumption of Civil Administration the Kuching landing ground had one metalled strip of approximately 1,000 yards in length and 50 yards in width, in almost serviceable condition. A minimum of work sufficient to maintain this strip to 1,016 yards in length and 35 yards width, in serviceable condition, has been continued during the



A Sea Dayak making a padi container.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

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year but otherwise no constructional work on this area has been undertaken. A site for a new airfield less than one mile to the north of the existing landing ground has been selected and construction work commenced during the year. A grant under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act was approved to cover the cost of constructing the new airfield.

The work of felling, burning and clearing the jungle was commenced. Progress has, however, been slow owing to unusually heavy rains which prevented satisfactory burning, and consequently when the wet monsoon broke the area was still covered by a mass of heavy felled timber and roots, the removal of which presented a difficult problem even for mechanical equipment. The only mechanical equipment available was unreliable and it was not until the end of the year that new machinery was obtainable. In spite of heavy rains, continued breakdowns and unavailability of spare parts, progress was maintained and it is hoped that the airfield will be completed by the end of 1949.

Railways

A metre gauge railway between Kuching and quarries situated seven miles to the south of the town was operated before the war.

A new diesel locomotive has been ordered for the purpose of transporting stone from the quarries to Kuching. Delivery of this locomotive is expected during 1949 and the track is to be repaired.

Roads and Vehicles

There is no extensive road system in the Colony. The main centres of population are not connected by roads and freight and passenger communications between them are dependent on river and sea transport.

With the exception of the Kuching district unsurfaced earth roads are the general rule. These connect outlying areas with the centres of population. Light motor vehicles are used on these roads where possible, but their use is of necessity restricted and upkeep is frequently heavy.

In 1928 construction of a trunk road from Kuching to Simanggang was projected and by the outbreak of war 40 miles—to Serian on the Sadong River—had been completed, opening up valuable agricultural country.

At the time of re-occupation the road was in an impassable condition and all equipment was missing. Work on re-establishing and improving the road has been carried on continuously since 1946 and as a result traffic has used the road to Serian without restriction throughout the year, even during the latter months when continuous heavy rainfall has been the rule. Trucks up to 4 tons are in use on this road and a number of buses operate daily. Proposals for the continuation of this main trunk road to Simanggang, a further 90 miles, are under consideration.

An approximate mileage of roads for the whole Colony is 457 classified as follows :—

1. Bituminous macadam and concrete surface, all weather roads ...	66 miles
2. Water bound macadam and rough metalled surface	84 „
3. Unmetalled roads suitable for motor traffic under good weather conditions ...	112 „
4. Unmetalled pathways and cycle roads ...	195 „
Total. ...	<hr/> 457 „ <hr/>

In addition there are some 250 miles of foot-paths.

The roads in Kuching are surfaced either with reinforced concrete or bitumen. Complete reconstruction and resurfacing of certain sections was completed during 1948 and extensive patching of other roads was accomplished.

In other parts of the country general maintenance work was carried out, roads have been reconditioned and resurfaced, and new culverts and drains have been constructed. A grant was approved under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for the construction of a pathway from Serian to Tebakang in the First Division. The road formation was nearing completion at the end of the year. The pathway when completed, with a width of eight feet and a consolidated non-metalled earth surface, will be capable of carrying cyclists, hand carts and restricted light motor traffic.

A grant was also approved under the Act for the improvement of telephone and land communication between Simanggang and Betong in the Second Division. A new pathway six feet wide with a consolidated non-metalled earth surface will be constructed and the telephone line will be

carried alongside the pathway. The road formation is being constructed to allow for development later into a motor road if conditions demand it.

The development of road communications throughout the Colony received consideration and plans were in the course of preparation for the construction of trunk roads and secondary roads for the development of timber resources and agricultural land.

The situation regarding supplies of new motor vehicles, both private and commercial, continued to improve. There is now no serious delay in deliveries and units usually arrive undamaged which was not the case eighteen months ago. Replacement parts, especially for mechanical equipment, diesel and petrol engines are still difficult to obtain and important works are sometimes delayed for long periods for want of replacements.

Maintenance of trucks and jeeps taken over from the War Department has been carried on. These vehicles have proved invaluable during the post war period of rehabilitation. They are now nearing the end of their useful life and maintenance of many of these vehicles is becoming uneconomical.

Posts and Telegraphs

There were 36 Post Offices and 19 Wireless Telegraph stations in operation during the year. Postal, telegraph and and telephone facilities are extended from time to time to meet the requirements of the administration and the public demand. Post Offices are established at all administrative centres and wireless and telegraph stations at the more important centres and in isolated stations. Where possible outlying districts are linked by line telephone to the nearest Administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

Air mails carried by the R.A.F. Courier service were more regular than in the preceding two years. The steamship service between Kuching and Singapore improved during the year and carried the majority of postal articles.

One new wireless transmitter was installed at Kuching during the year which was used on the Kuching/Singapore circuit. The task of rehabilitating the Miri Wireless Station was commenced during November 1948 and was nearing completion at the end of the year.

Telephones

There were twelve telephone exchanges in operation during the year. The total mileage of telephone lines was approximately 617 in aerial and underground routes and 1,550 on open wire routes. The open wire circuit between Pending, Lintang and Goebilt was erected but connection with the Kuching exchange was delayed awaiting delivery of the submarine cable to span the river at Pending. A small supply of new telephone instruments were obtained during the year.

CHAPTER 12

Science and Arts

The Museum

The *Sarawak Gazette* of 26th March, 1878, gave notice that "His Highness the Rajah intends on a future day to establish a museum for all specimens of interest in this country, for which a suitable building will be constructed at Kuching by the Government." "Arms, boats, cloths, woods, horns and skulls of deer, and other animals, old fashioned gold work, old china or pottery, paddles, minerals, fibres, oil, carvings, ornaments and the relics of any superstition, either in wood or stone" were mentioned as a guide to the type of collection required.

In a notice dated 27th May, 1878, R. V. Awdry, Private Secretary to the Rajah, was authorised to receive contributions for the proposed Museum. The first items, sent by Mr. C. C. de Crespigny from Mukah, were acknowledged on 5th June, 1878, but the scheme more or less remained in abeyance.

The collections were first housed in the Astana, and later in a room in the Clock Tower in the Government building.

The idea was revived again towards the end of 1886, when it was decided to purchase H. Brooke-Low's collection to form a nucleus for the museum. This was placed in a temporary building over the market place, and was opened to the public by the Rajah on 30th October, 1886. The present building was begun in 1889 and opened on 4th August, 1891. Since then the building has been added to, improved and renovated, the last important building operations taking place in 1940.

Since its inception there have been eight full-time curators, although there have been times during wars and for other reasons when the supervision of the Museum, much to its detriment, was perforce in the hands of administrative officers as an additional duty.

It is worth noting that for most of the time of the Japanese occupation of Kuching the Museum was under the direction of a sympathetic Japanese curator. For that reason

on the re-occupation by the Allied Forces it was found that the Museum had suffered very little damage and remarkably little looting. With the help of the Commander of the Australian Military Forces a number of gold ornaments were recovered in Bau, Upper Sarawak, and in spite of the neglect occasioned by three and a half years of war the Museum was opened to the public within a few days of the relief of the town.

The building is divided into two floors. On the ground floor are the zoological collections and on the upper floor the ethnological collections.

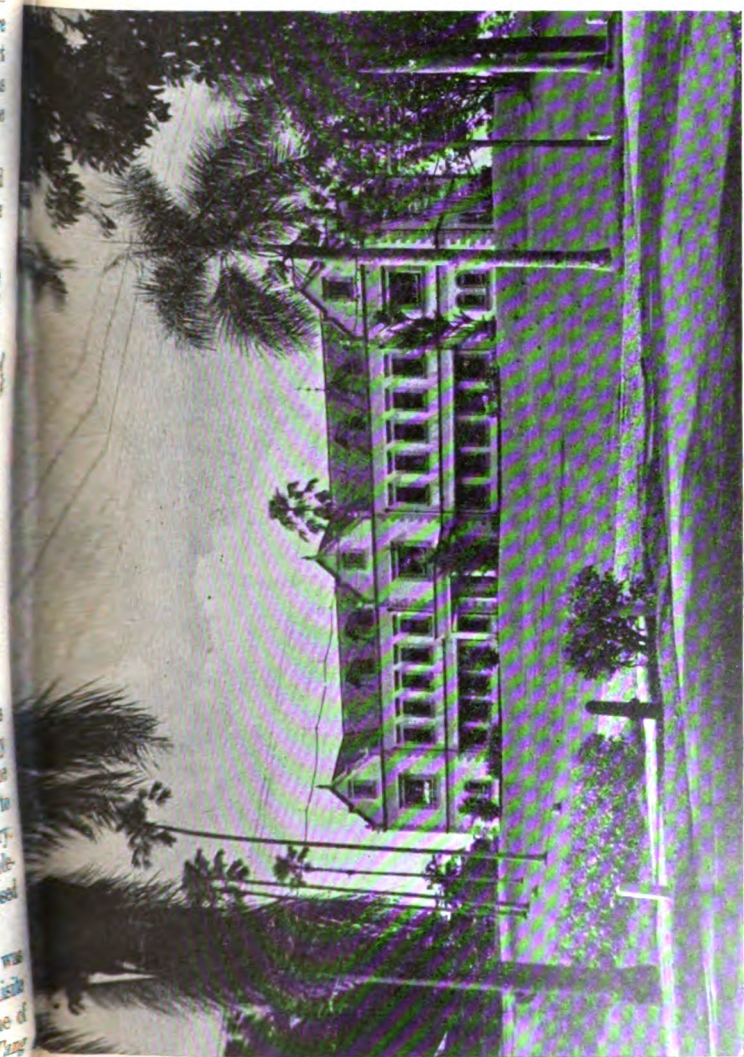
Other buildings, near the main building contain extensive collections of fish, snakes, crustaceans and other form of animal life preserved in spirit; scientific reference collections of bird and mammal skins, archaeological collections and reference books; and the public library. There are also valuable botanical collections.

The main incident of the past year has been the addition of extensive and varied new collections obtained by the Curator during ten months in the interior, and especially on the little known Kelabit plateau in the headwaters of the Baram River. About a thousand birds and mammals were collected here, a number of which are probably new to science. But the main point of this expedition was ethnological.

Perhaps the most interesting material brought back was nearly 150 stone implements. The Museum has previously had only a dozen or so, and very little indeed is known of the stone age in Borneo. This new material should do much to illuminate the problem of early stages in local history. Preliminary examination indicates that many of the implements are of an unusual form and differ from the supposed neolithic cultures of the rest of Southeast Asia.

A big collection of jars, pots and porcelain objects was obtained, including some beautiful plates and an exquisite slip-decorated celadon jar of the early Ming type. Some of this pottery, including pieces excavated, is almost of Tang date.. Some curious green hard pottery does not appear to resemble anything else known from this part of the world and appears to be nearest to some pieces found at Aden in the Red Sea and perhaps about the ninth century there. A large part of this pottery material from the uplands seem to be of





The Sarawak Museum, Kuching.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

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Siamese origin, and a good deal of it about the thirteenth century. The age and quantity of such objects, still highly valued in the remotest inhabited part of Borneo, raises a fascinating problem.

Basketwork and weaving, native looms, weapons, an extensive collection of beads, dancing clothes and ritual objects were also collected. But these were subsidiary to the main task of studying the life of the people themselves in this particularly isolated and interesting area. Nine months were spent by the Curator living in native long-houses, which are peculiar among the Kelabits in having no separate family rooms. This produces a situation which is ideal for anthropological observations, since there is so little private life possible. But it becomes somewhat exhausting to the uninitiated. When he returned to Kuching towards the end of the year, the Curator brought eight Kelabits with him for their first sight of cinema or motor car. With their leopard teeth ear-rings, colourful necklaces, loin clothes and silver knee bangles, they caused quite a stir in the capital.

A snake pit and the beginning of an aquarium were started in the Museum ground during the year. And inside the Museum a room was cleared for the preparation, over a period of time, of an educational section, for the use of students and future teachers.

Attendance at the Museum in 1948 was the highest ever recorded. It totalled 60,934. Of these 42% were Malays, 43% Chinese, 14% Dayaks and 1% Europeans.

The edible turtles which nest on three islands, administered from the Museum, had their first good year for a long time, laying over two million eggs, sold at 2 cents each. Experiments have been conducted with a view to increasing the turtle population. The profits from this industry go to various religious and charitable objects.

During the year the sad gap in the Reference Library due to war had been to some extent repaired, though there are still many serious omissions. The British Council made a generous gift of books to the Lending Library. The Raffles Museum in Singapore has helped the Sarawak Museum in many ways, and the Director, Mr. M. F. W. Tweedie, came over and spent a fortnight collecting and working in the Museum. Mr. R. E. Holtum, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Singapore, also paid a short visit and as a result

promised to supply botanists to assist in revising and rearranging the plant collections.

There is some concern about the possible decline of arts and crafts among the native population of Sarawak, and this has been the subject of study during the year. Plans are afoot to hold an extensive exhibition of arts and crafts for the whole country, in order to stimulate all peoples in this field.

Literature

An issue of the Sarawak Museum Journal was in course of preparation during the year and will be published early in 1949.

Socio-Economic Surveys

Arising out of the recommendations of Dr. Edmund Leach who visited Sarawak from June to October, 1947, four Sociological Research officers have been appointed to undertake surveys financed partly by grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and partly from local funds. One of the officers arrived in the Colony at the end of 1948 and the others are expected early in 1949. They will undertake the following projects :—

(a) A study of a community primarily engaged on the production of sago by traditional methods.

(b) A study of the Chinese community in Sarawak.

(c) A study of a community which, owing to close contact with other alien culture groups, is in a state of social stress; a community based primarily but not exclusively on dry rice cultivation and in which land shortage is imminent.

(d) A study of a traditionally based stable community based on shifting dry rice cultivation and not subject to undue land shortage.



A fine Japanese plate, perhaps found in a Murut longhouse in



A "treacle" glazed jar of Tang type purchased in Kuching which may well be over a thousand years old.



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PART III

CHAPTER 1

Geography

General description

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with Dutch West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Vegetation

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties) covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah Palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers

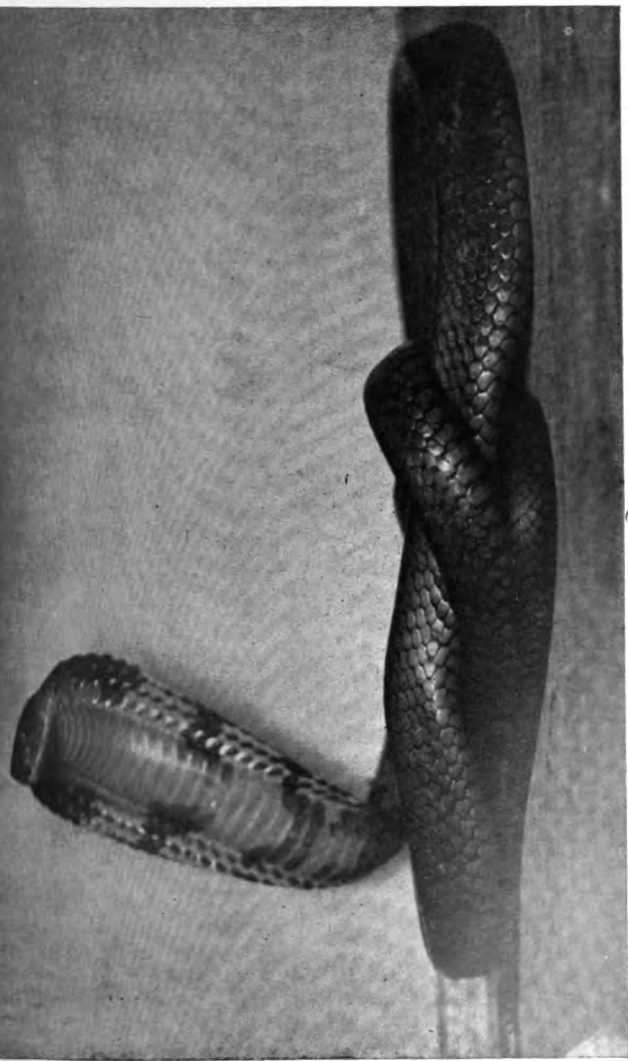
The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable for ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind the river banks rise above the normal High Water Level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the North-East Monsoon.



The Sarawak Museum's live king cobra, the deadliest snake in the world, in striking position.

Copyright Sarawak Museum

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Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area, Miri to Labuan, most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 156.89 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 30.28 inches and the minimum 4.25. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, where there is generally a swell from the north-east and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Kuching the capital of Sarawak stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, a large Malay riverside Kampong and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are found on the South bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

Sibu the second town of Sarawak is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibu is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the South-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, and still presents a sorry aspect though reconstruction is taking place. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lay along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (Headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (Headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Bintang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

CHAPTER 2

History

CHAPTER 2

History

Sarawak though known by name through the visits of such explorers as Pigafetta to Brunei in 1521 (and of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and Gonsavo Pereira in 1530) and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator, begins its history as an integral State from the first landing of James Brooke in August, 1839.

It was then a dependency of the Brunei Sultanate. Though possessed of a measure of independence, evidence which exists to-day shows how frequently throughout its history it had been engulfed by outside invaders.

Traces of early Chinese occupations are to be found, and relics of the Hindu Javan invasion which made Brunei a vassal of the Majapahit Empire can still be identified among the Land Dayaks. The Islamic religion came to the Malays through the Arabs, and later still the Sea Dayak or Iban arrived, possibly from Sumatra.

When James Brooke landed, Makota the Sultan's representative had goaded and oppressed both Malays and Land Dayaks into revolt, and the Sultan had sent his uncle Rajah Muda Hassim, the Bendahara of Brunei, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. The story of how James Brooke returned in 1840, restored order to a troubled country, and eventually deposed Makota from the Governorship is well known. He was publicly installed in 1841 as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This however is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

The story of the next few years is one of continuous action to put an end to piracy and headhunting, often with the assistance of Her Majesty's ships, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance.

It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. The death of the first

Rajah in 1868 left behind a country paternally governed with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

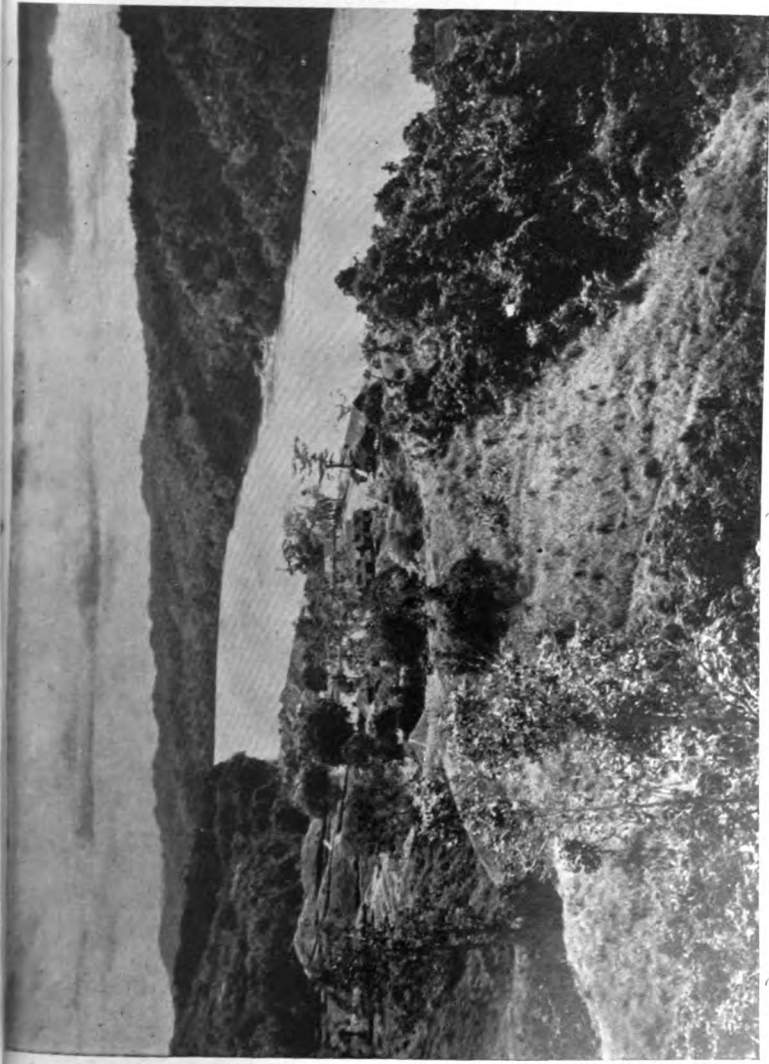
Charles Brooke was proclaimed Rajah on August 3rd 1868. Though outbursts of Dayak headhunting were still fairly frequent, the country was beginning to prosper and the second Rajah continued to enlarge his territory, and in 1888 was recognized as an independent Ruler by the British Government.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued, and pacified. The second Rajah built upon his uncle's foundation with such conspicuous success that between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320, and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke succeeded in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Headhunting as a result of tireless efforts was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941 the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a Centenary gesture the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and put the people's feet on the first stage of the road to democratic independence.

Then came the Japanese avalanche and years of oppression, misery, hunger, sickness, from which Sarawak at last emerged on September 11th, 1945, with the arrival of the Australian Forces.

Cynical and callous neglect and the ruthless subordination of the people to the whims of the Japanese displayed their results on all sides. Social services and communications had been disrupted, education was almost non-existent, health precautions were ignored, and sickness and malnutrition were spread abroad in the land. There was an almost complete lack of medicines with which to treat the prevailing diseases,



A view of Kapit (Third Division) from a hill east of the station.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

most of the people were in rags and their morale was deplorable.

The Military Administration worked hard, but it was evident to the Rajah that greater resources, and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a shred of its former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown and a Bill to effect this was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order in Council the State became a British Colony on 1st July, 1946.

The Colony has made steady progress towards recovery from the effects of the war and enemy occupation. The various Departments of Government have been strengthened and re-organised with a view to providing the community with the higher standard of social and other services required by modern conditions. Measures have been initiated to develop the country's natural resources, diversify its economy and improve the standard of living of its people. Substantial progress has been made in the development of Local Government.

CHAPTER 3

Administration

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of twenty-five members, fourteen of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and eleven of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the Colony and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the twenty-five members there are 14 Standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Colony and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the Colony except with the consent of the Council Negri.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgment, His Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

The Constitution was granted to Sarawak by the Rajah in 1941 and, in 1946 when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers from as much routine office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war however the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

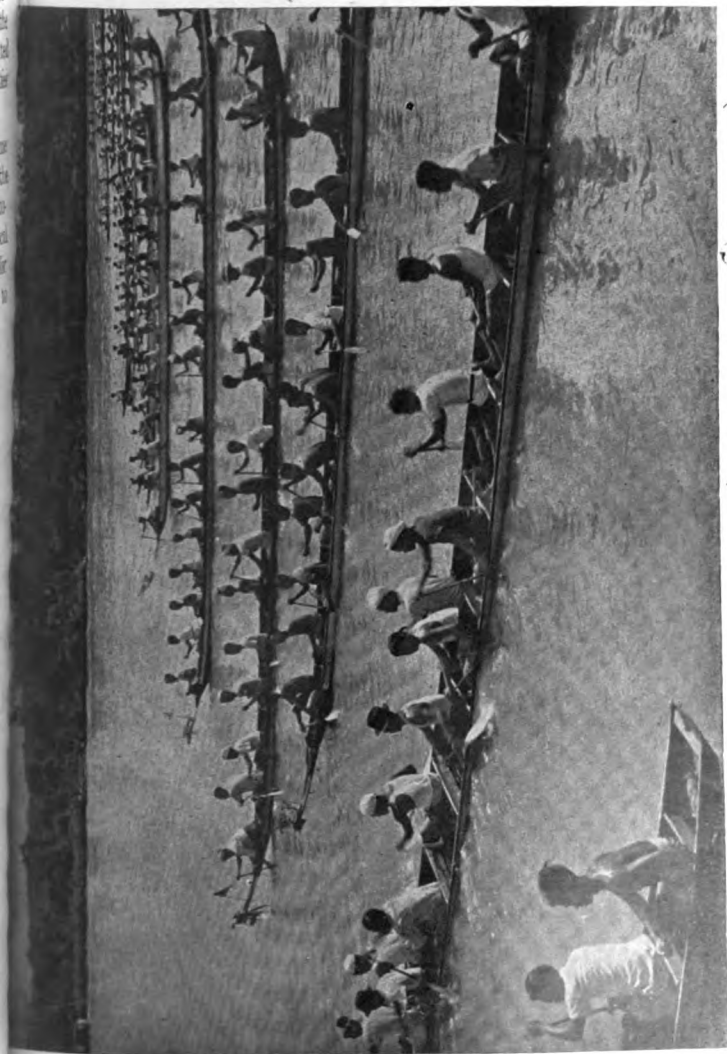
In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Local Treasuries. Considerable attention has been devoted during the year to the development of these Authorities and in accordance with the programme projected during 1947 five Local Authorities serving some 65,000 peoples were constituted under the Native Authority Ordinance.

These Local Authorities have shown during the year ability to undertake the duties so far allotted to them, and the functions formerly carried out by the agencies of the Central Government—the collection of taxes and fees and

provision of communal services—have in most instances been competently performed.

The revenues of these Authorities consisted of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government which, during 1948, necessarily related more closely to the requirements of individual Authorities than to their size and population.

Some of the Authorities showed eagerness to assume functions for which no statutory authority existed under the Native Authority Ordinance, and the need for more up-to-date legislation was met by the enactment of a Local Authority Ordinance sufficiently comprehensive to provide for all possible activities of local government for many years to come.



Sihon regatta. The start of a fifteen-man boat race.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison

CHAPTER

Weights and Measures

Weights and measures are the Imperial system of measurement.

Secondary weights and measures are also lawful.

1. 1000 = 1

1000 (pounds) = 1

1000 (tons) = 1

1000 (pounds) = 1

1000 = 1

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CHAPTER 4

Weights and Measures

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tahl	= $1\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	= $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	= $133\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	= $5333\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
1 Chhun	= 1.19/40 inches.
10 Chhuns	= 1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	= 108 stacked cubic feet.

CHAPTER 5

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1950

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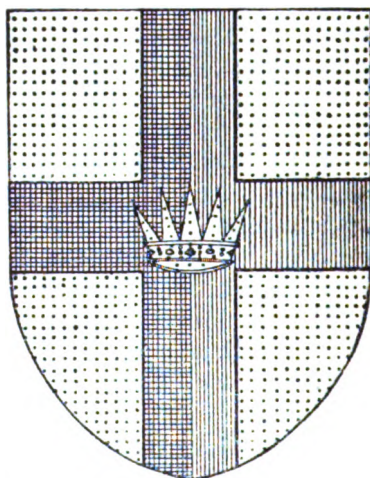
Fort Margherita, Kuching, from Chinese

Temple *Cover*

(*Photograph by Hedda Morrison*)

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Map of Sarawak	<i>Inside back cover</i>



Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

the end of the year the Department of Agriculture, received welcome additions to their strength, and three engineers for the Public Works Department were expected early in 1950.

Meanwhile, the system of Local Government, initiated within the last two years, is making substantial progress, and eleven new Authorities were constituted during 1949. These include two Authorities of mixed races, and the establishment of these gives reasonable hope that it may in time prove possible to break down some of the barriers which at present separate the numerous races and to evolve a true citizen of Sarawak.

Development and Welfare Projects.

Some of the more important projects have been referred to above: the scheme for wet padi cultivation at Paya Megok, the Fisheries and Geological Surveys, the Batu Lintang Teacher-training Centre and Secondary School, the Kuching Airport and the road development schemes.

Steady progress is being made with the soil survey (more properly a land inventory) and with the cultivation of cash crops. Arrangements were being made to import limited supplies of clean selected cocoa-planting materials from West Africa early in 1950. Experiments in mechanical cultivation have yielded promising results; on present indications it seems unlikely that the small farmer will be able to purchase machinery, either individually or co-operatively, for his own use, but the prospects for the operation of a farmers' hire service by the Department of Agriculture in selected areas seem quite good.

Ample supplies of materials are now available for rubber planting. As a fresh approach to the problem, a project is under consideration for the construction of a small-scale experimental centralised processing factory on modern lines, for the manufacture of standard products from latex collected by smallholders.

The number of travelling dispensaries has remained at two throughout the year. Experience gained from their operation has amply proved their value, and arrangements were in hand for the establishment of fourteen more travelling

dispensaries in stations throughout the country at the beginning of 1950.

The very interesting experiment in adult education which is being made at the Rural Improvement School at Kanowit continued during 1949, and the first group of twenty-six married couples will complete the two-year course during the first half of 1950.

Socio-Economic Surveys of the Chinese, Melanau, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak communities have been in progress during the year. The two former began late in 1948, the two latter at the beginning of 1949. The officer responsible for the Chinese survey has now completed his study on the ground and has returned to England to compile his report.

The Census scheme, formed for the population census of 1947, is still in operation, as, owing to considerable delays in the printing of the tables, the Census Report has not yet been published.

Schemes financed entirely from Colony funds are the Co-operative Societies Department, already mentioned, social welfare activities in the form of the Boys' Home in Kuching and the probation officer, and the control of sago flour exports by grading.

The table below shows the projects which were initiated or in operation during 1949, with the amounts spent on each. As the 1949 accounts have not yet been finally closed, the totals are provisional only. It should be emphasised that, though against many schemes no expenditure is shown from local funds, in a number of them, notably the Agricultural and Public Works schemes, a considerable proportion of the staff operating the projects is paid from Colony revenues. As such staff are not employed wholly on any one scheme, it is not practicable to show their salaries and allowances against the scheme. In addition, maintenance of roads constructed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds has been borne on the Colony's revenues, but here again no sum is shown, as expenditure has been met from the ordinary maintenance votes.

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<i>Name of Scheme.</i>	<i>Number.</i>	<i>Amount spent from initiation to end of 1949.</i>	
		<i>From C.D. & W. Funds.</i>	<i>From Local Funds.</i>
		<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
AGRICULTURE.			
1. Soil Survey ...	D.816.	52,746	—
2. Improvement of Rubber Industry ...	D.826.	13,937	—
3. Cultivation of Cash Crops ...	D.954.	26,042	—
4. Mechanical Cultivation ...	D.973 & D.973A.	43,589	—
5. Padi Production—Paya Megok Drainage and Irrigation ...	D.1208.	14,487	—
EDUCATION.			
6. Batu Lintang Teacher-Training Centre and Secondary School ...	D.839 & D.839A.	201,691	28,128
7. Rural Improvement (Long-house) School, Kanowit ...	D.838.	148,317	5,860
FISHERIES.			
8. Fisheries Survey ...	D.837 & R.209.	105,555	—
GEOLOGICAL.			
9. Geological Survey ...	D.950 & D.1109*.	143,877	—
MEDICAL AND HEALTH.			
10. Travelling Dispensaries ...	D.830.	232,266	—
11. Malaria Survey ...	R.158 & R.158A**.	—	—
POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.			
12. Installation of Telecommunications Service, Kuching Airfield ...	D.1117***.	—	—
PUBLIC WORKS.			
13. Communications—Roads ...	D.1076.	112,922	—
14. Secondary Roads and Telecommunications ...	D.944	98,910	—
15. Kuching Airfield ...	D.913 & D.913A.	306,935	—
16. Preliminary Surveys for Secondary Roads ...		—	52,995†

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY.

17.	Sociological Research	... R.270.	35,941	17,329
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CENSUS.

18.	Sarawak Population Census	... D.804. D.804A, D.804B, D.804C & D.804D.	216,884	—
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CO-OPERATION.

19.	Co-operative Development Plan		—	47,013
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SOCIAL WELFARE.

20.	Kuching Boys' Home	...	—	19,362
21.	Social Welfare Staff	...	—	5,010

TRADE AND CUSTOMS.

22.	Produce, Export Control	...	---	6,000
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*Joint Scheme for North Borneo and Sarawak.

**Joint Scheme for North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei, administered by North Borneo up to 31st March, 1950.

***Scheme initiated in 1949 and equipment ordered, but no expenditure incurred by the end of the year.

†Expenditure incurred from local funds; eligible for reimbursement from C.D. & W.F. if subsequently included in a formal approved scheme.

PART II

CHAPTER 1.

Population.

A full-scale population census was conducted during 1947. The census was satisfactorily carried out but unfortunately owing to printing difficulties the statistical analysis and final report has not yet been published. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 as disclosed by the census was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayas, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the comparative numerical importance of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of total population.</i>
European	... 691	0.1%
Malay	... 97,469	17.9%
Melanau	... 35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak	... 190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak	... 42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous	... 29,867	5.5%
Chinese	... 145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous Asiatic	... 5,119	0.9%
	<hr/> 546,385 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0% <hr/>

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogeneous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

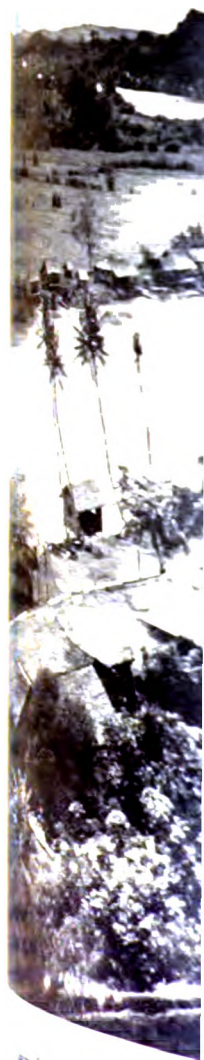
The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and the Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.

Vital Statistics.

The Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, enacted in 1948, was brought into operation on 1st August, 1949. It worked somewhat imperfectly, as District Registrars were still unfamiliar with the provisions of the Ordinance and lacked experience of its administration. Nevertheless there was improvement by the end of the year, and the operation of the Ordinance should be more efficient and effective next year.



from the Residen



View from the Residency, Limbang.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.



Kayan girls dancing, Balui River.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

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...Labour.
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...Apart from this there
...into Sarawak during
...131 Dayaks and
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...population in North Borneo

Immigration.

Control was considerably improved during 1949 owing to the establishment of an Immigration Department and the appointment of an Assistant Immigration Officer and a Passport Officer in Kuching. The issue of immigrant landing permits for permanent entry into Sarawak was reduced to a minimum. Control of travellers by land, especially in the First Division, between Sarawak and West Borneo, continues to be a problem incapable as yet of satisfactory solution, owing to the physical impossibility of patrolling the whole border and to the ease with which illegal immigrants may, if they wish, avoid the checking posts at Serian, Bau and Lundu.

Owing to the large profits to be gained by smuggling rubber, copra and pepper out of West Borneo into Sarawak, there was a considerable increase during 1949 in the small craft trading between Indonesian and Sarawak ports. Every effort was made to control the temporary entry of merchants masquerading as crew on board these vessels.

Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri.

Migration to and from Sarawak during 1949 was as follows :—

<i>Race.</i>	<i>Immigrants.</i>	<i>Emigrants.</i>
European	... 999	813
Chinese	... 4,009	3,466
Malay	... 328	343
Melanau	... 5	—
Sea Dayak	... 404	379
Other Indigenous	... 7	4
Other Asiatic	... 464	506
Total	... 6,216	5,511

Movement of Labour.

There is constant interchange of labour in the oilfields area between Miri in Sarawak and Seria in Brunei, but no statistics are available. Apart from this there was no importation of recruited labour into Sarawak during 1949. Five batches of labourers, including 131 Dayaks and 161 Chinese, with 131 dependants, were recruited under licence in Sarawak for work on a tobacco plantation in North Borneo.

CHAPTER 2.

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisation, Co-operative Societies.

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing primitive methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting rice. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of this 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus who are a coastal tribe are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupations of the Chinese; they are to a large extent rubber planters. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The trade of the country is, except for a few European importing firms, in the hands of the Chinese.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. which employs a total of approximately 1,800 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form of work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of children.

No recent or reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available; hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but, taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

Conditions of labour remained generally unchanged during 1949, and there were no disputes of importance. The number of persons employed directly and indirectly in the timber trade

increased with the expansion of the trade throughout the country. Following on the revaluation of the pound in September and the consequent rise in the price of rubber, wages on the smaller rubber estates rose; at the end of the year a tapper, doing afternoon work in addition to his tapping, could earn between \$1.40 and \$1.50 per diem. Wages in the sago industry averaged \$3.40 per diem, while wages on the oilfields for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour were respectively \$2.26, \$3.02 and \$4.64 per diem. The cost of living tended to rise throughout 1949.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also Protector of Labour, and District Officers are Deputy Protectors.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provides protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended during the year, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly labour returns from employers.

The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting the recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak were drawn up during the year for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

A new Labour Code is in course of compilation, but its completion has been held up pending the return of the Protector from England, where he has attended a three months' course of labour study under the Ministry of Labour.

The number of registered Trade Unions increased during 1949 from four to eleven. The largest, the Kuching Wharf Labourers' Union, with some 302 members, continued to develop satisfactorily.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance was enacted during the year, to come into force on the 1st April, 1950.

Co-operation.

A Registrar of Co-operative Societies was appointed with effect from 12th March, 1948, but the new Co-operative Societies Department did not commence work until 1st January, 1949.

The first attempt to introduce Co-operation into Sarawak was made with the enactment of the Co-operative Societies Ordinance on 1st December, 1939, and subsequently the Secretary for Native Affairs was appointed Registrar. No Rules were published under this Ordinance, and although three Societies (two of doubtful Co-operative intent) were registered before the Japanese occupation in December, 1941, no determined attempt was made to introduce Co-operation.

The Co-operative Societies Ordinance, 1948, was enacted and came into operation on 1st January, 1949, the previous Ordinance of 1939 being repealed at the same time. The Co-operative Societies Rules, 1949, made under the 1948 Ordinance, came into force on 3rd January, 1949.

During 1949 the emphasis was upon training of field staff and the establishment of demonstration Co-operatives in selected areas. With only two partly-trained Co-operative Officers, who were obliged to spend a large proportion of their time as tutors of the trainees in Kuching, it has not been possible to expand with any rapidity.

Three areas were selected for demonstration. Firstly, the Kuching District, because Kuching is the headquarters of the Department and supervision is easy; secondly, the Saribas District, because it is reasonably accessible and there exists a great demand among the Sea Dayaks of that area for Co-operatives; and thirdly, the Oya-Dalat District, because it also is reasonably accessible and there is wide scope for Co-operation among the sago cultivators. Other areas were suggested, and requests to organise Co-operatives came from other places, but it was decided not to disperse the inadequate forces of the Department beyond these three Districts.

By the end of the year twenty-four Societies had been registered, and many others are in course of formation. Eight were registered in the Kuching District of the First Division, six in the Saribas District of the Second Division,

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and nine in the Oya-Dalat District of the Third Division. Another one was established at the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

Three Thrift and Loan Societies have been formed for the purpose of savings and investment, their members being Sea Dayaks of the Saribas District; a further eleven Rural Credit Societies of unlimited liability function among Malays and Melanaus for the purpose of savings and loans; three village stores have been opened; two processing societies operate, one a padi mill, the other a sago rasping plant; and, lastly, Chinese fishermen have combined to start a Model Village Society.

CHAPTER 3.

Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1948, the original Estimates for 1949 and the revised Estimates based on information available as at the 31st March, 1950, are given below:—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expen- diture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1948	15,783,896	13,025,257	2,758,638	—
Original Estimates, 1949	14,055,045	19,186,932	—	5,131,887
Revised Estimates, 1949	15,385,156	17,396,899	—	2,011,743

When the Estimates for 1949 were presented a deficit of \$5,131,887 was anticipated. The accounts for the year 1949 have not yet been closed but there is every reason to expect that the actual deficit will not exceed a sum of \$2,011,743. This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1949 falling short of the amount originally provided by \$1,629,017 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by \$1,991,585.

It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year 1949 the General Revenue Balance amounted to approximately \$11,000,000.

Revenue.

The main heads of Revenue are as follows:—

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs	10,741,487	8,650,000	9,732,810
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	731,572	926,509	1,080,054
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	954,312	730,430	473,324
Departmental Reimbursements	434,150	425,295	897,901
Land	386,303	367,880	405,264
Forest	245,408	242,000	349,932
Posts and Telegraphs	320,380	381,400	497,115
Marine	117,291	107,000	149,079

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Municipal (Outstations) ...	314,237	203,169	222,585
Municipal (Kuching) ...	343,897	209,500	270,704
Revenue from Government Property ...	47,251	103,270	163,624
Land Sales ...	142,903	10,720	15,808
Interest ...	471,889	281,500	382,610
Rehabilitation Loans ...	64,952	46,300	35,748
	15,316,032	12,684,973	14,676,558
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants ...	467,864	1,370,072	708,598
TOTAL ...	15,783,896	14,055,045	15,385,156

Expenditure.

The heads of Expenditure are as follows:—

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Governor ...	74,007	115,453	89,801
H.H. the Rajah's Dependants	131,153	131,600	122,175
Administration* ...	—	348,757	328,863
Agriculture ...	191,304	248,724	216,781
Audit ...	28,448	29,823	34,851
Chinese Affairs ...	36,707	48,050	58,504
Clerical Service** ...	—	561,787	522,222
Constabulary ...	946,710	1,191,514	964,381
Co-operation ...	14,142	38,508	33,335
Development ...	13,415	—	—
Education ...	276,436	455,372	333,716
Forest ...	103,469	142,130	144,000
Kuching Boys' Home ...	5,483	21,668	13,490
Landing Grounds ...	1,999	3,500	10,234
Land and Survey ...	357,716	542,419	490,966
Legal ...	66,712	109,333	89,129
Marine ...	351,062	692,421	538,710
Marine Police ...	—	4,209	—
Medical and Health ...	989,469	1,189,640	1,152,420

* Appeared in 1948 under R. & D.O. votes.

** Appeared in 1948 under departmental votes.

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1948.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1949 (Revised March, 1950).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Miscellaneous Services ...	—	3,540,086	4,071,162
Municipal—Kuching ...	821,411	273,937	259,043
Museum and Library ...	22,641	31,376	52,337
Native Affairs ...	151,060	232,811	200,469
National Registration ...	—	—	137,763
Pensions and Provident Fund	645,233	888,050	426,338
Posts and Telegraphs ...	343,291	481,397	479,974
Printing ...	146,763	231,203	246,143
Prisons ...	115,313	176,105	125,348
Public Works Department ...	2,642,376	649,947	3,390,647
" " Recurrent ...		413,075	
" " Extraordinary ...		2,975,981	
R. & D. O. 1st Division ...	158,509	159,592	133,690
Municipal, 1st Division (Bau)	11,683	5,505	
R. & D. O. 2nd Division ...	175,141	121,254	136,371
R. & D. O. 3rd Division ...	220,224	151,406	257,813
Municipal, 3rd Division (Sibu Sarikei and Binatang) ...	79,866	77,166	
R. & D. O. 4th Division ...	108,904	76,762	184,812
Municipal, 4th Division (Miri)	59,906	54,699	
R. & D. O. 5th Division ...	65,673	45,099	179,878
Secretariat ...	145,057	128,219	
Special Constabulary ...	—	—	5,380
Survey of Ships ...	1,784	2,955	2,601
Trade and Customs ...	227,260	264,810	279,588
Treasury ...	2,500,459	195,131	170,075
Sociological Research ...	282	15,380	18,056
Rehabilitation Loans ...	332,326	750,000	171,051
War Damage Claims Com- mission—Assessment ...	—	—	10,897
Rice Mill ...	19,546	—	—
Shortages and Losses ...	9,617	—	—
Unallocated Stores ...	—	—	104,820
	12,592,606	17,816,860	16,187,843
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	432,651	1,370,072	1,209,056
TOTAL ...	13,025,257	19,186,932	17,396,899

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT
31st DECEMBER, 1948.

LIABILITIES.*Previous Year.*

\$		\$	\$
	Deposits—		
	Security Deposits ...	768,072.30	
1,899,706.67	Miscellaneous ...	736,085.31	
4,058,685.25			1,504,157.61
135,673.42	Special Funds ...	...	4,541,387.23
4,466.19	Current Accounts ...	...	451,803.67
7,383,850.94	Goods-in-transit ...	...
	Trading A/c. Food Control ...	...	1,207,046.07
	Allotments—		
	London ...	4,891.67	
10,030.26	Local ...	942.13	
			5,833.80
--	Suspense ...	...	53,496.33
	General Revenue Balance—		
	Balance as at 1.1.1948 ...	10,183,357.73	
	Add Surplus & Deficit A/c.	2,758,638.34	
		12,941,996.07	
	Add Appreciation of Investments ...	271,182.53	
10,183,357.73	Balance as at 31.12.1948 ...	...	13,213,178.60
23,675,770.46			20,976,903.31

ASSETS.*Previous Year.*

\$		\$	\$
3,172,951.09	Cash ...	...	4,032,612.74
671,244.26	Fixed Deposits with Chartered Bank, Kuching ...	...	755,970.36
6,390,961.14	Joint Colonial Fund ...	...	2,185,714.29
10,847,726.27	Investments ...	...	12,106,562.67
647,502.82	Investments, Special Funds ...	...	664,840.35
931,142.18	Advances ...	...	849,802.32
4,965.00	Imprests ...	...	5,645.00
32,374.74	Current Account ...	...	35,684.10
	Stock—		
	Unallocated Stock, Agriculture ...	13,058.21	
237,473.65	Unallocated Stock, Public Works Department ...	—	13,058.21
477,722.20	Drafts and Remittances ...	...	233,813.94
240,779.34	Remittances between Chests ...	...	82,377.91
332.11	Allotments—Local ...	...	—
20,624.66	Suspense ...	...	10,821.42
23,675,770.46			20,976,903.31

Note :—

A sum of \$30,552.21 is due by His Majesty's Government in respect of under issues on the following Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes :—

Scheme No. 816	...	\$13,513.97
„ „ D.968	...	219.44
„ „ 804	...	2,572.89
„ „ D.837 & R.209	...	2,035.39
„ „ 918	...	3,134.75
„ „ R.270	...	9,075.77
		<hr/>
		<u>\$30,552.21</u>

Taxation.

The main source of income is Customs Import and Export Duties which comprise approximately two-thirds of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1949 is \$9,732,810.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

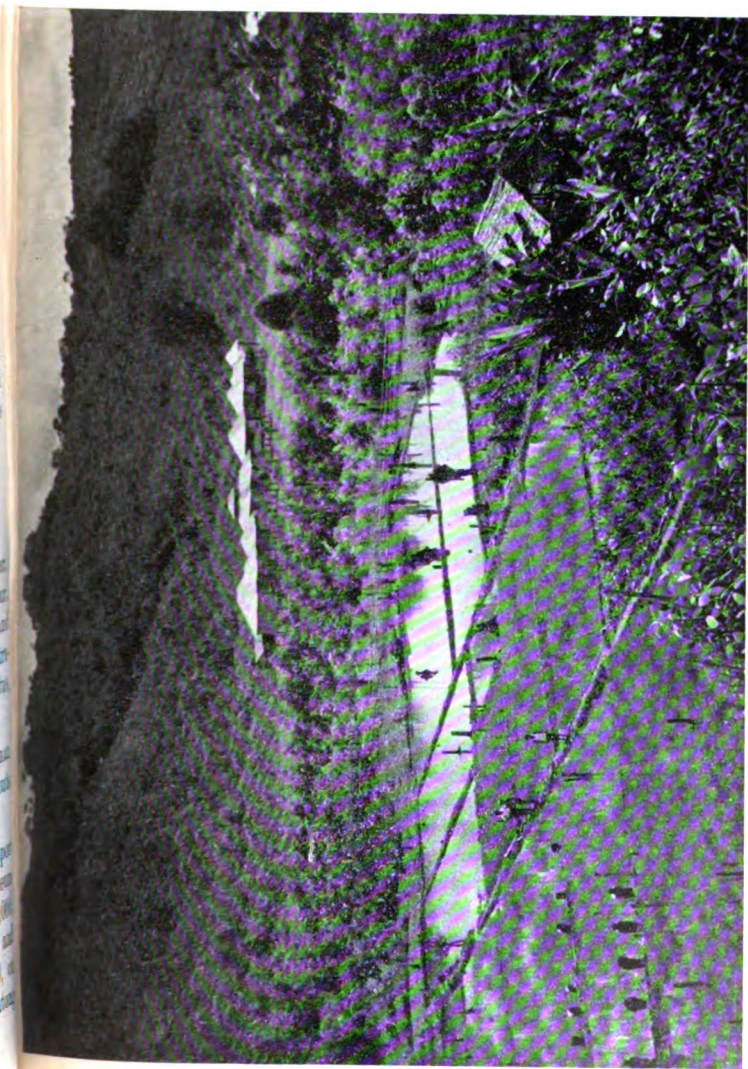
(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, milk, coffee, tinned meats, soaps, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, fireworks, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nut, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue-producing items in 1949 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$3,492,000, on petroleum products \$338,000, on textiles and wearing apparel \$512,000, on sugar \$425,000, and on alcoholic liquors \$349,000; and Export Duties on rubber \$2,577,000, on sago \$493,000, on pepper \$235,000, on copra \$152,000 and on jelutong \$110,000.

*EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES.**(a) Excise.*

There is no Excise Duty as such in Sarawak but fees which are based on excise procedure are charged on the manufacture of matches and certain wines within the Colony.



Murut rice fields at Fa Brayong in the Upper Trusan.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

Malays harvesting rice at Sundar.



is imposed on all documents requiring the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance the principal duties are:—

on declarations in writing	\$ 2.50
on contracts	... .50
on instrument creating an	... .50
on cheques including cheques	... 10.00
on public on demand or at	... .06
on any other kind	... 10 cents for
	\$100 or part thereof.
on Trust or Trust Deed	... 5.00
	... 6 cents on a exceeding

of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a liability free of duty, was introduced in the public accounts is such as to quote figures of revenue arising from

of Malay *hasil* (Head Tax) and I the rule of the Rajahs of S the book collections, where Local are, as an administrative m in full. The "door" tax "door" tax in other territories. in a Dayak longhouse of "Head tax" is applicable main and is levied only on adult n and an annual revenue of a

the taxes.
In December, 1949, the Income tax at present tax is char-acter of the incomes of the under ann

(b) *Stamp Duties.*

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17). The principal duties are:—

Affidavits or declarations in writing	\$ 2.50
Agreements or contracts ...	.50
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ...	10.00
Bill of Exchange (including cheques on banks):—	
(i) payable on demand or at sight ...	.06
(ii) of any other kind ...	10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed	5.00
Receipts ...	6 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00

A stamp duty of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a bank, a document previously free of duty, was introduced in 1948.

The structure of the public accounts is such that it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from each individual source.

Door and Head Tax.

The system of Malay *hasil* (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. Such collections, where Local Authorities have been instituted, are, as an administrative measure, paid over to the Authorities in full. The “door” tax is equivalent to what is called “hut” tax in other territories, the “door” being the apartment in a Dayak longhouse occupied by a single family. “Head tax” is applicable mainly to Malays and Melanaus, and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes.

On the 31st December, 1949, the Income Tax Ordinance came into force, but at present tax is charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in

the Colony or elsewhere. There should be levied and paid for each year of assessment, upon the chargeable income of every company, tax at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income thereof.

A Trades Licensing Ordinance was enacted at the November, 1949, meeting of the Council Negri and this will come into force on the 1st January, 1950. This Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees to be paid by the different categories of business are as follows:—

1. A licence to carry on the business of a
wholesale trader—

For the principal or only place of business	\$ 400
For each subsidiary place of business ...	200

Provided that, if the person who carries on the business deals or trades only in goods manufactured, made or treated by him at the place of such business, the fee shall be—

For the principal or only place of business	100
For each subsidiary place of business ...	50
2. A licence to carry on the business of a retail
trader including importation from places
beyond the Colony—

For the principal or only place of business or where the business is not carried on at any defined premises ...	150
For each subsidiary place of business ...	50

Provided that no person shall be deemed to be an importer who carries on a business as a handicraftsman and only imports raw materials for the purposes of his trade or business and not for resale of such raw materials.
3. A licence to carry on the business of a retail
trader not including importation from
places beyond the Colony, for each place of
business

50

4.	A licence to carry on the business of a banker (including any branches or agencies)	2,500
5.	(1) A licence to carry on the business of shipping or air transport in the Colony ...	400
	(2) A licence to carry on the business of shipping in respect of vessels engaged only in the carriage coastwise or in the waterways of the Colony of passengers or cargo	50
	(3) A licence to carry on the business of an agent of a shipping or air transport business which has no place of business in the Colony including any sub-agency in the Colony ...	200
	For two or more such agencies ...	400
6.	A licence to carry on the business of a contractor at any place in the Colony ...	400
Provided that where the total number of persons employed on the contract work at any one time does not exceed 20 then only half the above fee shall be charged.		
7.	A licence to carry on the business of letting taxis or passenger or goods service vehicles for hire, or of a passenger omnibus service—	
	If three or more vehicles are used in the business ...	100
	If two or less vehicles are used in the business ...	50
8.	A licence to carry on the business of a remittance shop ...	300
9.	A licence to carry on any other business ...	50
10.	Duplicate licences ...	2
11.	Any transfer of a licence ...	2

Estate Duties.

The rates of Estate Duties were amended in 1948. Some relief on small estates was granted whilst a heavier duty was imposed on the larger estates.

The revised rates came into force on 1st September, 1948, and are as follows:—

Where the value of the estate exceeds:—

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$	3,000	...	1	per cent
3,000	5,000	...	1½	„
5,000	7,500	...	2½	„
7,500	10,000	...	3½	„
10,000	20,000	...	5	„
20,000	40,000	...	7½	„
40,000	70,000	...	10	„
70,000	100,000	...	15	„
Over 100,000		...	20	„

Entertainment Tax.

Entertainment tax is at present charged at the following rates:—

Where the payment excluding the amount of the duty:

does not exceed 25 cents	...	...	5 cents
exceeds 25 cents and does not exceed 50 cents			10 „
„ 50 „ „ „ „ „	\$1		20 „
„ \$1 „ „ „ „ „	\$2		30 „
„ \$2 „ „ „ „ „	\$3		40 „
„ \$3 „ „ „ „ „	\$5		50 „
„ \$5			10 per cent. of amount of the payment.

With effect from the 1st January, 1950, these rates are being amended to read:—

Where the payment including the amount of the duty—

does not exceed 50 cents	...	10 per cent. of such payment.
exceeds 50 cents	...	20 per cent. of such payment.

CHAPTER 4.

Currency and Banking.

Currency.

Since the conclusion of the war Malayan currency has been issued in Sarawak, in the first instance to provide a common currency for the three British Borneo territories during the Military Administration. No new issue of Sarawak currency has been made since the re-occupation and none is intended. The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak:—

**Malayan
Sarawak**

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

Sarawak currency is gradually being withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. So far as is known, there is no British North Borneo currency in circulation in Sarawak. The remaining Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

At the 31st December, 1949, there was \$13,503,856 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$2,529,941 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$1,893,134 in notes and \$636,807 in coins. There was an increase of \$1,941,125 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$1,473,587 of Sarawak currency notes was withdrawn during the same period. The circulation figure for Sarawak currency coins at 31st December, 1949, remained unchanged.

Banking.

Banking facilities in Sarawak are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China in Kuching and Sibu and the Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching. The Chartered Bank were preparing to open a branch in Miri early in 1950.

In addition there are three Chinese trading banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank, and the Wah Tat Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1949 was 3,068 as compared with 2,675 at the end of 1948. The amount of credit to depositors was \$982,753 as against \$868,058 in 1948. During the year deposits amounted to \$570,935 which exceeded withdrawals by \$102,175.

CHAPTER 5.

Commerce.

Commercial Activities.

There are now several firms specialising in the extraction and export of timber; there is a company confining its activities to the production of cutch, and most important of all there is of course the oil company (Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.).

Apart from these, the firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony may be said to fall, roughly speaking, into two main groups:

- (i) The Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) The Chinese Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses, i.e. the leading European firms, import, either from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries of the Empire, proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. These firms hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their principals (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods, these firms conduct insurance and other business and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large rubber estates that exist, and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "Production", e.g. the timber business.

The Chinese Merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some indeed act as agency houses, but only on a much smaller scale than do the European firms.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources, i.e. upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally necessitate transshipment in Singapore). Most of the things imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large

Singapore distribution depots. Similarly, most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago and rubber to other countries are now becoming more frequent.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but generally speaking the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the Chinese merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are, of course, some shops, which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash (and some of these are Indian shops), but many are usually to be found that combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display: sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, *blachan* (prawn-paste) and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associate Chinese firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, *damar* and various types of guttas, of which *jelutong* is employed in the manufacture of chewing-gum, and such piquant items as dragons' blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, which they cannot and do not provide themselves, are very few, but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the Dayaks, who may set their hearts on any object, but have a natural partiality for gold and silver ornaments. The other things they venerate vary with the local tribal custom, and amongst these are a certain type of earthenware jar, large, glazed and urnlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shot-guns are universally esteemed for utility and prestige.

Very little weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some



Kelabit skinning a monkey.

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places, far from the towns, very little more than salt and oils for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great is the variety of goods normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Certain Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of sago flour for export, and this is in the nature of a specialised trade.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price that the crop, when ultimately produced, would fetch, and during the Japanese occupation it was abandoned altogether, but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of "grubstaking", and they are again considering it worth their while to do so.

External Trade.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for the year 1949 was \$297,598,019 as compared with \$270,020,772 for the year 1948 and \$78,415,599 for the pre-occupation year 1940.

This total is made up as follows:—

	1949
Total Exports	... \$187,628,559
Total Imports	... 109,969,460
Favourable Trade Balance	... <u>\$ 77,659,099</u>

Trade Balance.

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$77,659,099 does not show a very clear picture in view of the fact that in the total exports of \$187,628,559 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$135,117,901.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery at Lutong in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports being \$60,131,142. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum is included in the total value of exports.

Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the territory of Brunei and in

Sarawak itself, the favourable trade balance for 1949 would be \$2,672,340 as follows:—

Total Exports	...	\$52,510,658
Total Imports	...	49,838,318
	...	<u>\$ 2,672,340</u>

While the figure of \$77,659,099 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$2,672,340 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into consideration the production of oil in Sarawak.

Imports.

The declared value of imports for 1949 was \$109,969,460 made up as follows:—

		as compared with :	
		1949.	1948.
		\$	\$
Foodstuffs	...	19,414,554	21,082,912
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	...	5,342,172	5,839,503
Petroleum, crude and refined	...	62,615,909	48,761,085
Tobacco	...	5,003,112	5,491,000
Manufactured goods and sundries	...	17,593,713	17,595,376
		<u>109,969,460</u>	<u>98,769,885</u>
			<u>32,818,879</u>

During the year the basic foodstuffs, i.e. rice, flour and sugar, were the only commodities imported on Government procurement. Butter, meats, fats and cheese, though still on quota, were procured through normal commercial channels. The supply of consumer goods was adequate but bazaar trade was dull until the devaluation of the £ sterling which, in terms of local currency, resulted in an improvement in the price of rubber, the Colony's main industry, and thus increased the purchasing power of the populace. This improvement in purchasing power brought about by devaluation was, however, offset to some extent, as a result of the same cause, by a general rise in the cost of imported commodities.

The cost of basic foodstuffs, rice and flour, showed a further advance on that of 1948, while sugar, salt and milk decreased, the declared values being:—

		1949.		1948.
Rice	... ..	\$ 468.12	per ton	\$ 417.64 per ton
Flour	... ..	465.84	„ „	389.47 „ „
Sugar	... ..	449.52	„ „	518.02 „ „
Salt	... ..	56.11	„ „	67.56 „ „
Milk	... ..	1,269.90	„ „	1,280.66 „ „

Compared with 1940 values the 1949 values show an advance of:—

Rice	... ..	4.91 times
Flour	... ..	3.78 „
Sugar	... ..	2.74 „
Salt	... ..	1.15 „
Milk	... ..	2 „

Exports.

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1949, \$187,628,559, was made up as shown below:—

		as compared with :		
		1949.	1948.	1940.
		\$	\$	\$
Petroleum, crude and refined		135,117,901	111,753,896	11,446,818
Rubber	... ..	31,545,400	34,532,924	26,167,140
Sago Flour	... ..	4,699,629	11,124,325	2,184,997
Pepper	... ..	2,025,997	1,159,242	362,569
Jelutong	... ..	1,182,665	2,228,479	775,209
Various guttas	... ..	247,414	363,020	145,930
Damar	... ..	416,544	389,559	88,688
Sundries	... ..	12,393,009	9,699,442	4,599,056
		<hr/> 187,628,559	<hr/> 171,250,887	<hr/> 45,770,407

As against 1948, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 2,599,897 tons to 3,312,823 tons. It is not possible for the reason already given to assess the true value these exports have in the Colony's economy. Crude oil actually won in the Colony amounted to 56,752 long tons as against 46,597 long tons in 1948.

Exports of rubber decreased slightly from 39,884 tons in 1948 to 38,901 in 1949; the average price obtained was also lower. An encouraging feature of the Colony's rubber exports is the increase of shipments on through bills of lading. During the year such shipments were made to no less than sixteen different countries. Before the war, rubber was shipped only to Singapore where the grading and bulking

was done; now the Singapore exporting houses find it to their advantage to have the grading and bulking done in Sarawak and shipped on through bills, thus avoiding high handling charges in Singapore. There are now two rubber grading and packing plants in the Colony.

Towards the end of the year a few small quantities of pepper from vines planted since the war were exported. All, unfortunately, were of low quality. In order to obtain a quicker return pepper planters have been inclined to permit their vines to go to fruit earlier than was the recognised practice before the war. The prospects of the Colony's pepper industry are bright and the next few years should see the return of "Sarawak White Pepper" on the world markets in quantity.

The new legislation dealing with exports of sago flour which came into force on the 1st May, 1949, has undoubtedly resulted in a higher grade of sago flour being exported. All shipments have been inspected and approved by the Customs Department before shipment. This should have a beneficial effect upon the reputation of Sarawak sago flour in the world markets. Local exporters have been able to negotiate contracts for shipment under their own marks and as a result exports to the Singapore market declined consistently during the course of the year. On the other hand shipments on through bills of lading have been made from Sarawak to no less than seven different countries. Whereas in 1948 38,432 tons were exported to Singapore out of a total of 49,751 tons, in 1949 only 8,450 tons went to the Singapore market out of a total export of 27,081 tons.

Timber exports have again shown a very encouraging trend, the year's exports being:—

36,607 tons valued at \$2,018,896
as against 21,128 tons valued at \$1,158,335 for 1948.

Most of this timber has been shipped from Tanjong Mani near the mouth of the Rejang River.

During the year no less than 24 vessels loaded at Tanjong Mani. These vessels ranged in tonnage from just under 2,000 to 4,300 nett registered tons. In addition to timber, shipments of cutch, a tanning extract, are now almost invariably made from Tanjong Mani on through bills of lading to Japan. This point of shipment is of great convenience to the cutch and timber companies.

Customs and Excise.

The total Customs revenue for 1949 amounted to \$9,600,349, made up as follows:—

				as compared with:	
				1948.	1940.
Import Duty	...	...	\$5,879,267	\$ 5,360,903	\$2,252,028
Export Duty	...	...	3,721,082	5,813,526	1,273,254
<u>\$9,600,349</u>				<u>\$10,674,429</u>	<u>\$3,530,282</u>

The decrease in revenue was the result of a fall in the price of rubber, the duty being imposed *ad valorem*, and of a decline in the quantity of sago flour exported.

There were no changes in the tariffs during the year.

As in previous years, the principal concern of the Customs Department has been with native-type tobacco, of which it is suspected that considerable quantities are both smuggled across the Indonesian border and brought in by sea. The opportunities for this trade are so numerous that it is quite impossible to prevent it altogether and, as long as tobacco retains its present high duty of \$4 a *kati*, it is certain that smuggling will continue. Though there have been few seizures, preventive measures seem to have had some effect and there is evidence of an improvement in the position during the year, in that the local price of tobacco has risen slightly and normal imports have become more frequent.

There is as yet no Excise Ordinance, but revenue was collected on excise lines from two factories manufacturing under licence under the Monopolies Ordinance. These were the Raga Chemical Works at Pending, 6 miles from Kuching, which produced a wine fortified with alcohol, and the Sarawak Match Factory. Revenue collected from the former amounted to \$10,217 and from the latter to \$96,480.

The Customs Department is still considerably handicapped by lack of experienced and educated outdoor staff. Over half of the customs officers have been recruited since the war and all had had their education seriously curtailed by the Japanese occupation. Work has been hampered by inadequacy of godown space, but plans are in hand for the erection of a large import godown in Kuching.

CHAPTER 6.

Production.

AGRICULTURE.

It is estimated that an area of about 13,000 square miles is used for agricultural purposes. This includes land occupied by tree crops and land used for hill padi cultivation. A recent survey has shown that approximately 5,600 square miles of the delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamp unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes. There are, however, considerable areas of good swamp padi land in the delta regions. There are small areas of good well-drained soils suitable for tree and shrub crops, particularly in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, but on the whole the soils are very poor judged by normal standards. Favourable climatic conditions do, however, to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils.

The average annual rainfall is of the order of 160 inches. In the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February. In the north-eastern half of the country the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform. Atmospheric humidity is generally very high. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will be in the nature of 5 hours' bright sunshine a day.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the development of the country's agriculture by the native farmer working a mixed system of farming rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that a measure of control over the farmer will be necessary if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of what are now generally termed "group-farming" units.

Legislation of far-reaching importance to agricultural development in Sarawak was enacted during 1949 in the form of the Natural Resources Ordinance, the object of which is to

control the destructive systems of shifting cultivation referred to below.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are as follows :—

(a) *Padi*. This is the main crop. Before the war Sarawak had to import an annual average of 33,000 tons of rice to supplement her own production. Imports have continued since the war on quotas allocated by the International Emergency Food Committee, the figures for the last three years being :—

1947	...	19,272 metric tons,
1948	...	17,525 metric tons,
1949	...	11,517 metric tons.

The progressive decline in imports has been due to a considerable increase in padi production, and in the last two years it has not been necessary to take up the whole rice quota.

Undoubtedly a great incentive to farmers to plant padi has been given by the Government's padi purchase scheme, inaugurated at the end of 1946, when it was announced that Government was prepared to purchase local grown padi and rice at fixed minimum prices of 55 cents per *gantang* of padi and \$1.30 per *gantang* of rice. No rice was in fact purchased, but the padi purchasing scheme proved so successful that it has been decided to continue it in each succeeding year. It has gone some way towards ensuring the cultivator an adequate return for his labour, besides helping to reduce the Colony's dependence on imported rice. Purchases of padi during the three years in which the scheme has been in operation were :—

1947	55,085 piculs	(roughly 197 tons of rice)
1948	72,074 piculs	(roughly 257 tons of rice)
1949	89,071 piculs	(roughly 318 tons of rice)

The bulk of the purchases were made in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions.

Owing to poor communications and shortage of technical staff, it is not at present possible to make an accurate estimate of the acreage covered by padi, but there is no doubt that Sarawak as a whole is approaching self-sufficiency in rice, its staple foodstuff. A destructive method of shifting hill/dry padi cultivation, which is bringing very serious problems in its train, accounts for a considerable part of the padi

produced. Swamp/wet padi is cultivated, but the methods employed are usually primitive and yields are often low. The 1948-49 swamp/wet padi crop was generally good, but the hill/dry crop was disappointing.

(b) *Rubber* is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated in 1941 that there were approximately 240,000 acres under rubber, of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by native holdings each less than 5 acres in extent. It is possible that the acreage has increased during and since the war. Most of it is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition which must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture are generally of a very low standard. Adequate budwood is now available for smallholders who wish to replant with high-yielding material.

(c) *Sago*. It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres used for sago cultivation, the major part being concentrated in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by Melanaus. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available but, taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young, immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. For a time after the liberation production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the plantations were being overworked as a result; the quality of the product too was often very poor. More recently, due to a fall in prices, production has dropped considerably and is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting. Since the passing of the Sago Flour (Control of Exports) Ordinance, 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; on the whole the trade has co-operated extremely well in the matter, and there has been a major improvement in the general quality of sago flour exported from Sarawak.

(d) *Pepper* was an important export product before the war and the quality was generally good, but most of the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation. Considerable replanting has taken place recently and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines is now near the pre-war total. A recent estimate suggests that a total of



Kelabit system of clearing and irrigating jungle.

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Pepper vine, Tarat Agricultural Station.

Photograph by K. E. H. Kay.

nearly 500,000 vines are now being cultivated, and the number is increasing rapidly, no doubt due to the excellent market prospects for pepper. All the vines are planted in small gardens, mostly less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in extent and often very much smaller. It is expected that about 1,000 *piculs* of dry pepper will be produced in 1950 and that in subsequent years there will be a steady increase in production if prices remain at a reasonable level. Unfortunately, most of the pepper in Sarawak is still cultivated under a most pernicious system of shifting cultivation. It is hoped that it will be possible to minimise the worst effects of this system by powers now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance, 1949, referred to above.

(e) *Coconuts* are mainly a smallholder's crop, largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage occupied by the crop is estimated at 21,000 acres, though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

(f) *Tuba Root (derris)* has been cultivated in the past, but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is a good export demand, but there is still a shortage of suitable planting material.

(g) *Gambier* was an important product many years ago, but production is now negligible.

(h) *Pineapples* of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced in small quantities on drained peat soils.

(i) *Tobacco*. Small areas are planted by the natives for their own use. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

(j) *Coffee* is cultivated to a small extent round the villages.

(k) *Cocoa* is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak, but some observation plots recently established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise.

(l) *Fresh fruit and vegetables* adequate for local needs are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

So little information with regard to agricultural conditions in Sarawak had been recorded before the war that a great deal of the work of the Department of Agriculture since it came into being in its present form in 1946 has consisted of preliminary surveys and investigational work. But

it has now been possible to start some developmental work, in spite of acute shortage of trained and experienced technical staff. Financial assistance for this work is being received from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and indeed without this assistance progress would be impossible. In present circumstances it is inevitable that the main projects should be near Kuching, but as the staff situation improves it is hoped to start similar projects in other Divisions.

The work at the Tarat Agricultural Station (34½ miles from Kuching on the road to Serian) is already impressive. Three years ago most of the land on the station was derelict and infested with *lalang* (*Imperata spp.*), but it has been shown in a striking way that it is economically possible to reclaim such land, provided that it is not too steep, and to utilise it for intensive stabilised cultivation of tree and shrub crops. The demonstration pepper plots are particularly impressive and the Department's nurseries have been a most valuable source of pepper-planting material for the country. A further important contribution to the spectacular recovery of the pepper industry has been distribution by the Department at low prices of considerable quantities of local bird and bat guano.

The group-farming project that has been recently started at Paya Megok, some 27 miles from Kuching, is full of promise. The main object of this scheme is intensive production of padi by modern methods, but other crops and certain livestock will also receive attention. An important aspect of the scheme is the experimental use of modern machinery, both for cultivation and for irrigation.

The Department has now established rubber budwood nurseries, and adequate supplies of budwood of high-yielding strains are now available for distribution to smallholders.

LAND.

Applications for new land.

Applications for Crown land for various purposes during the year amounted to a total of 27,157 acres from 5693 applicants, as compared with 31,303 acres from 4562 applicants in 1948.

The 1949 applications are classified as follows:—

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>No. of Applications</i>
Sago	... 5919	788
Padi	... 5740	1581
Miscellaneous Food Crops	... 3882	570
Rubber	... 3823	777
Coconut	... 3525	575
Pepper	... 2388	538
Ordinary Agricultural	... 647	200
Fruit	... 638	216
Vegetable	... 265	67
Building	... 163	304
Miscellaneous	... 95	72
Cattle Grazing	... 72	5
TOTAL	.. 27,157	5693

At the beginning of the year there were 4398 applications waiting to be dealt with and during the year the following applications were dealt with in the following manner:—

(a) Surveyed during the year	... 4046
(b) Applications for land already surveyd	... 362
(c) Applications cancelled, withdrawn or dis- allowed	... 1004
(d) Applications for which title issued with- out survey	... 49

This left arrears of applications not dealt with at the end of the year of 4630, an increase in arrears of 232.

Dealings in alienated land.

Some 6716 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:—

Transfers	... 3016	Miscellaneous (i.e.	
Charges	... 1046	Deeds of Ex-	
Release of Charges	869	change, etc.)	... 369
Sub-leases	... 44	Power of Attorney	
Surrender to Crown	274	or Revocation	... 134
Court Orders	... 15	Transmission by	
Partition Orders	... 28	Probate Officers	
Letters of Adminis-		in the case of	
tration	... 278	small estates	... 527
Caveats	... 120		

Issue of titles for Crown land.

Some 3243 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1949, 106,663.

Miscellaneous.

Requests for subdivision of alienated land totalled 255, while miscellaneous inspections of land were 868.

Settlement operations.

A systematic investigation into the problem of non-indigenous infiltration into native lands was undertaken during the year. In the First Division a settlement officer was appointed, whose responsibility is to investigate illegal occupation of land and to resettle on suitable land those non-indigenous squatters who are genuinely landless. At the same time the definition and permanent recording of native farming rights in the affected areas was undertaken, in order to secure and protect native interests.

In the Third Division a survey of the native farming lands and non-indigenous infiltration of the Rejang Delta was undertaken with a view to following a similar procedure there in 1950, when an experienced officer of the Land and Survey Department is available for settlement work.

When surveys are in the final stage of adequate control for permanent record, the Land Settlement Ordinance will be introduced in these areas.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Animal husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Bullocks are rarely seen. Some herds of buffaloes estimated at a total of 5,600 head are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields, but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese small-holders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in and around Dayak villages. Schemes for the development of animal husbandry in Sarawak with assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare

Fund are being prepared. Strict control is now exercised over the import of livestock into Sarawak under the Animal Health Ordinance.

FISHERIES.

Under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for a survey of Sarawak's fisheries, a Fisheries Survey Officer arrived early in 1948 and a Master Fisherman later in the year. During 1948 a motor fishing vessel was purchased and fitted out, and a preliminary survey conducted of the villages and fishing areas in the vicinity of Kuching.

Fishing started in earnest in 1949 and for the first five months of the year was confined to Kuching waters. During this period the Danish seine method was extensively used; this is a net 36 fathoms long and narrowing at each end; 600 fathoms of line are fastened to the two ends and attached to the boat in order to form a bag, which is then drawn along the sea bottom, usually at high speed, and hauled in about every $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours. This mode of fishing is well suited to Sarawak waters, where the bottom is mainly mud and usually free from rock or coral. Large catches of second quality fish of great variety were often landed and on one occasion a haul contained 5 *piculs*.

Experiments were also conducted in long line fishing. Each line carried a total of 120 hooks and at no time were more than three lines in operation. By this method fair quantities of second and third quality fish were caught and, although this may be potentially the means of landing large catches of fish, it was not tried on a sufficiently large scale accurately to predict results. Long line fishing was more popular with the Malays than the Danish seine method, as it does not require great expenditure of labour.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to develop the fish traps peculiar to Borneo, known as *bubu*, and to improve them for large-scale use on the motor fishing vessel. These traps consist of small rectangular cages with a funnel-shaped lead-in to permit entry of the fish, and they are sunk deep into the water, their position being marked by bamboo floats. Traps were manufactured, based on the native design, and by the end of the year eight were in commission. The most successful experiments have been carried out in 15 to 20 fathoms of water, and results seem to indicate that this method of fishing is likely to be of outstanding success.

The use of improved native-type traps operated from the winch of a small motor fishing vessel certainly seems to be the method most suited to Sarawak, and is a means of catching fair quantities of first quality fish.

The survey has shown that great improvement in fishing technique is possible and that the development of primitive methods and gear may establish the fishing industry as a staple one in Sarawak. A necessary corollary must be the establishment of an adequate and fair marketing system, which at present does not exist, owing to the virtual monopoly of the Kuching "fish ring" and the consequent very high price of fish.

FORESTRY.

The Forests of the Colony may be classified as evergreen rain forests, and consist of three main types:—

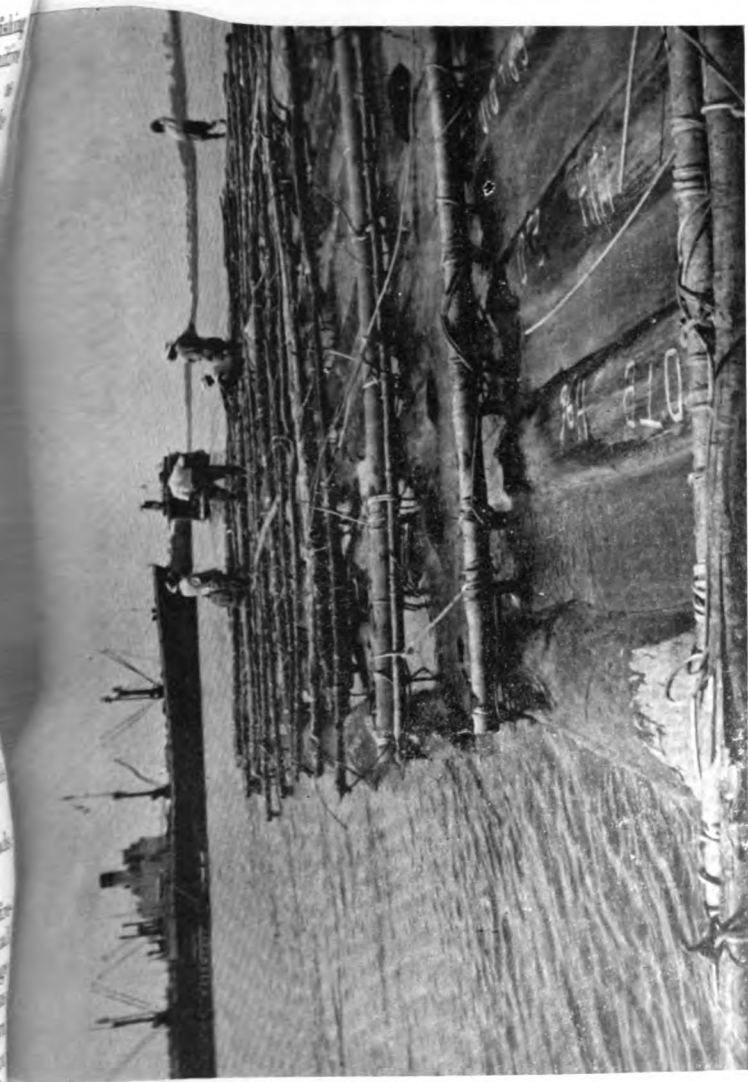
(a) *Mangrove forest* which occurs in the deltas of the main rivers, and produces firewood, charcoal and cutch, a tanning extract obtained from mangrove bark.

(b) *Inland Swamp (fresh water) forest*. This is very extensive, producing fair quality timber and minor forest produce, the most valuable of which is *jelutong*, a wild latex obtained from *Dyera Lowii*.

(c) *Dry or hill forest*. This is the best type of forest, producing valuable timber, both hardwoods and semi-hardwoods, and also minor forest produce such as rotans, resins and a limited amount of wild latex from a species of *Dyera* found in dry forest. This type of forest was at one time very extensive, but a large proportion of the more accessible areas have been destroyed by shifting cultivation.

The forest products of the Colony fall under two heads, referred to as major and minor forest produce.

(i) *Major forest produce*. This includes timber and firewood. Domestic requirements of timber are met by 29 small or medium-sized sawmills. Of these, seven have an average monthly output of 125 tons or over and export their surplus stock. The expansion of this export trade both in sawn lumber and in peeler logs to Australia, China, South Africa and the United Kingdom has greatly increased during the current year, due to improved shipping facilities. During the year 24 ocean-going vessels entered the estuary of the Rejang River to load at the deep-water point at Tanjong



S.S. *Tydens* (7,284 tons) loading timber for Sydney at
Gunong Ayer in the Rejang River.

Photograph by Pacific Traders (Borneo) Ltd.



Saban from near Lio Matu, Baram River, making a casting net (jala).

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Mani, in addition to transshipments made through Labuan and Singapore. There are seven timber enterprises under European management established or in the process of initiation. One firm imported five elephants from Siam and is reported to be considering the importation of yet another six of these animals. Great enterprise was shown by one Australian firm in successfully solving the problem of exploiting the freshwater swamp areas by means of rails and a small petrol-driven locomotive. The future of the timber industry remains most encouraging.

The following figures show the total production of timber and the quantity exported during 1949 as compared with 1948:—

	<i>Total production</i> (Cubic feet)	<i>Exported</i> (Cubic feet)
1948	... 2,089,050	980,100
1949	... 3,506,800	1,925,600

In addition 32,287 long tons of firewood and charcoal were produced as compared with 27,747 long tons in 1948. The increase is due to the expansion of the firewood export trade which has developed with Hongkong.

(ii) *Minor forest produce.* The principal minor forest products exported were wild rubber, canes (*rotan*) and resins (*damar*). The most important of these is *jelutong*, a wild rubber used in the manufacture of chewing gum. Production was affected by market fluctuations. The future of this industry is somewhat uncertain. Rumour has it that a synthetic substitute will oust the natural product during the next five years.

There was a small crop of illipe nuts, known locally as *engkabang*. The kernels, producing a valuable fat, are produced by various *Shorea* spp., mainly *Shorea Gysbertsiana* and *Shorea Martiniana*. Fruiting is erratic, occurring at roughly four-year intervals, and the next heavy crop is expected in 1950-51. Arrangements have been made with the Ministry of Food to purchase the future crop at a guaranteed price.

In 1949, the production of wild rubbers of all types was 1342 long tons, canes 1774 long tons and resins 1980 long tons.

There is also a considerable internal trade in roofing thatch (*atap*) and walling (*kajang*) made from the leaves of the *nipa* palm (*Nipa fruticans*) which is abundant in the coastal swamps.

MINERAL RESOURCES AND OUTPUT IN 1949.

The mineral resources of Sarawak comprise oil, gold, coal, antimony, mercury, diamonds, limestone used for lime manufacture and possibly suitable for cement, clay used for bricks and some types of pottery, building stone, and phosphate. Small occurrences of silver, lead, copper, gypsum, and iron ore have been recorded, sapphires are known to have been found and salt is worked by native methods in the interior; aluminium ore has recently been discovered. In 1949 only oil was being produced on a large scale by modern methods; seven Chinese gold mines were operating, one mercury deposit was being prospected, small amounts of lime, bricks and phosphate were being produced and stone was being quarried. The oilfields of north-east Sarawak and the gold in the west are the mineral deposits that have received the closest examination, but, in common with the other minerals, a large amount of work remains to be carried out before the potentialities are known. Mineral occurrences, particularly of gold, coal, antimony and mercury, are widely reported. The present Government policy is to try to foster mining, and steps to this end were taken in 1949 by the introduction of a modern Mining Ordinance, establishment of a Geological Survey Department (which serves the three British Borneo territories) and temporary removal of some of the mineral royalties.

The most important mineral development in 1949 was the discovery of high-grade aluminium ore in west Sarawak. This deposit is now being tested by the British Aluminium Company.

During 1949 there were 24 mining leases covering 3,930 acres of land. This was the only land alienated for mining, excluding oil rights which are held by Sarawak Oilfields, Limited.

The following figures show the production of different minerals during 1949, as compared with 1948:—

	1949.	1948.
OIL: output to nearest hundred barrels. (Each barrel contains 42 U.S. gallons) ...	413,000	343,000
GOLD: production in fine ounces	1,523	599
ANTIMONY: production in long tons ...	2½	9
PHOSPHATE: output in piculs ...	8,400 (Estimated)	7,056

Lime, bricks and roadstone were also produced, but the exact output is unknown.

Although little has been published about Sarawak's minerals, they have received attention in the past. Between 1850 and 1900 there appears to have been an energetic search for deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury and gold. Investigations were made by individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the Government. Unfortunately virtually none of the information resulting from the work was published and records available are insufficient for assessing the full extent of the investigations. Minerals have, however, played an important part in Sarawak's development. From 1823, after the discovery that antimony ore had a ready market, they have figured prominently in the country's economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was generally the most important mineral produced and, in the early days, often Sarawak's leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879 inclusive, but after 1887 output declined and became negligible ten years later. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export. The relationship of Sarawak's mineral products to the country's total exports is shown in the table below:

Sarawak Mineral Production.

Year.	Value of Sarawak Produce Exported.	Value of Mineral Exports.	Percentage of Mineral exports to exports of Sarawak Produce.	Mineral Royalties paid to the Sarawak Government.	REMARKS. (Mineral exports in their order of value: the most valuable export is shown first).
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1888	1,322,325	118,915	09	8,889	Antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold.
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	Coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver.
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	Gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver.
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	Gold, oil, coal.
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	Oil.
1938	23,244,666	12,842,134	54	387,636	Oil, gold, silver.
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	67,320*	Oil, gold, antimony.

All values given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s. 4d. sterling since 1906.

N.A.=not available.

*Estimated oil royalty and mining rents and fees; most of the oil exported during 1948 was produced in Brunei.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION.

The Island Trading Company, at Selalang in the Third Division, which has been in operation since 1909, manufactures cutch (a tanning extract) from the mangrove bark. The Company's activities have earned a considerable amount of U.S. dollars since the war.

There are also a few minor industries such as the manufacture of matches, soap and aerated waters and the curing of fish.

SURVEY AND MAPPING.

Revenue surveys comprised some 2532 miles of boundary surveys and 382 miles of theodolite control.

Topographical surveys were confined generally to provision of ground control for twelve 1/50,000 sheets in the First and Second Divisions. To meet the increasing demand

for topographical information before the 1/50,000 mapping is complete, rough lucigram mosaics have been prepared for the area covered by air photography undertaken by the Royal Air Force in 1947 and 1948. Owing to their commitments in Malaya in connection with the emergency, the Royal Air Force were unable to continue air photography in 1949. At the end of the year 9250 square miles were covered by these mosaics and 844 copies made for distribution to the Forest, Agriculture and Geological Survey Departments.

The total cost of the Land and Survey Department for the year was \$507,547.

CHAPTER 7.

Social Services.

Education

Historical Introduction

A Department of Education was first created in 1924 when a Director was appointed. During the depression of the early thirties the Department was closed and the schools became the part-time responsibility of the appropriate sections of the Administrative Service. It was not until 1939 that the post of Director was revived, and even then the Chinese Affairs Department continued to be responsible for the Chinese Schools. In April, 1946, on the resumption of the Civil Government after the Japanese occupation, the Education Department was reconstituted by seconding an Administrative Officer to act as Director in charge of all educational services including the Chinese Schools system. During 1947 an Educational Adviser was appointed to act as Director, and the number of Education Officers was increased to two. During 1948 the senior staff was further increased by the transfer of an Agricultural Education Officer from the Agricultural Department and by the appointment of an Assistant Principal for the new Teacher-training Centre.

During the war 17 schools were totally destroyed, and 35 others damaged, as a direct result of the fighting. At most other schools furniture and equipment were looted and buildings became dilapidated because necessary repairs were neglected. During the four years of Japanese occupation most of the Government Malay Schools continued to function but attendances were low and attempts to introduce the teaching of the Japanese language met with little success. All the Mission Schools remained closed and the teaching of English ceased completely. Some of the Chinese Schools continued to function, but enrolments fell and attempts to pervert those that remained to centres of propaganda failed.

On the arrival of the British Military Administration in November, 1945, immediate steps were taken to restore educational services. Government Schools and the Malay Teacher-training College were re-opened, the work of the Mission urban schools was resumed and the Chinese Schools

were re-established with commendable rapidity. Rehabilitation and development continued successfully under the Civil Government and at the end of 1949 the School population had risen to approximately 35,600 compared with 19,000 in 1940.

General and Administration.

During 1949 the senior staff was increased by the addition of four Education Officers, of whom one was seconded to Brunei as State Education Officer, and one Lady Education Officer. Of the three new Education Officers in Sarawak one was posted to act as Principal of the Government Training Centre and School at Batu Lintang where he will introduce the teaching of science; one was posted to the First Division and one opened an Education Office at Sibu in the Third Division where there is a large number of Chinese Schools. The Lady Education Officer is responsible for the improvement and expansion of the education of women and girls of all races.

During the year there was a considerable expansion in the system of primary education under the control of Local Authorities. The first five of these Authorities were constituted during 1948 and these took over or established 18 Primary Schools. During 1949 a further eleven Authorities were established and the number of schools controlled and financed by Local Authorities rose to 40. In some cases agreement has been reached between a Local Authority and a Mission body for the handing over of a school to the Authority.

This system of "Local Authority Schools" provides the first facilities for the local peoples to begin to consider the provision of social services under their own auspices and the solution of the financial problems involved. This organisation will enable the local peoples to decide the pace at which the ideal of free compulsory primary education for all boys and girls in the area can be achieved.

The greatly increased interest in education shown since the Liberation by the indigenous peoples other than the Malays was maintained during 1949. The number of children of these peoples attending school at the end of 1949 was 5,300, representing an increase of 25% over the corresponding figure for 1948.

The number of girls of all races attending school continued to increase. Classes for women teachers in Kuching in needlework and handwork were organised by the Lady Education Officer; preparations were made for opening, in January, 1950, classes in Domestic Science for girls of all schools in Kuching and plans were being made for the training of women teachers.

In a small number of schools a beginning has been made with the teaching of science.

Finance.

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services :—

	1940	1947	1948	1949
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Central Government funds ...	166,881	235,163	276,436	381,364
Local Authority funds ...	nil	nil	19,943	44,041
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	nil	nil	182,148	164,495
Total ...	166,881	235,163	478,527	539,900
	£19,488	£27,435	£55,828	£62,988

It is estimated that during 1949 the Mission authorities spent approximately \$219,000 (£24,750) and the management of Chinese Schools some \$1,240,000 (£144,666) on educational services. The amounts were mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions and were additional to grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority funds.

Government Schools.

At the end of 1949 there were 50 Government Schools staffed by 91 teachers and with 3,760 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1948 were 56 schools with 104 teachers and 4,080 pupils. The decreases are accounted for by the fact that a number of Government Schools and teachers were taken over by Local Authorities during the year.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. No fees are charged, but the pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees, with advisory powers, were formed during the year at an increased number of schools.

With the exception of one school in Kuching at which some post-primary classes have been established, all these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction but the teaching of English as a subject, for which there is a great demand, is being introduced as teachers with sufficient ability become available.

At most of these schools the number of pupils remaining in school for more than one or two years continued to be discouragingly low, and the average attendance was still very unsatisfactory.

Local Authority Schools.

At the end of 1949 there were 40 Local Authority Schools with 50 teachers and an enrolment of 1,625 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1948 were 18 schools with 21 teachers and 804 pupils. Nineteen of these Local Authority Schools had been taken over from the Central Government, five from the Mission authorities or the management of Private Schools, and sixteen were new schools established by the Authorities. Ten of these new schools were opened in 1949.

Local Authorities are financed mainly by a refund of the head tax or door tax collected in their area together with a direct grant from central funds based on the amount of the tax so collected. In order to raise additional revenue for education, Local Authorities have in some cases agreed to substitute head tax for door tax or to impose an education cess. Four of the Authorities now charge fees in their schools.

All these schools had to be staffed temporarily with untrained teachers but in November, 1949, ten certificated teachers for Local Authority Schools completed their training at the Batu Lintang Centre and were due to take up teaching under nine different Authorities from the beginning of 1950.

The general organisation and curriculum of these schools are similar to those adopted for Government Schools.

Private Schools.

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged, in the meantime, to open schools under the management of Committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools" or "Private Schools" receive financial assistance from Government. There were 38 of them at the end of 1949 with 58 teachers and 1,891 pupils. The corresponding

figures for 1948 were 30 schools with 47 teachers and 1,555 pupils. 24 of the schools catered mainly for Dayaks and 14 for Malays and Melanaus. Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$3,400 (£407), as compared with \$1,832 (£213) in 1948, were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from the Mission representative in the area.

Mission Schools.

Several new Mission Schools were opened during 1949, chiefly among the Land Dayaks of the First Division, and at the end of the year there were 59 of these schools with 219 teachers and approximately 6,550 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1948 were 56 schools with 196 teachers and 5,743 pupils.

Grants from Government or Local Authorities amounting to \$85,942 (£10,027) were paid to Mission Schools during the year, as compared with some \$74,500 (£8,692) during the previous year. In the case of the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff, and a more favourable formula was adopted for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples.

Of the students who completed their training as teachers at the Batu Lintang Centre at the end of 1949, 14 were due to take up teaching at Mission Schools. During the year Government approved a special grant-in-aid to schools employing certificated teachers from Batu Lintang to enable the Missions to pay these men the same salaries and allowances as were paid in the Government service and to make similar provision for a Provident Fund or Savings Account.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction, and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government service. At seven of these schools post-primary classes were provided in which 239 pupils were enrolled. This figure compares with 185 pupils in 1948 and 130 in 1947. The higher standards in the primary sections of these schools are well attended and it is expected that the numbers in the secondary classes will increase steadily. The staffs of these schools were strengthened during 1949 by a considerable increase in the numbers of qualified European teachers. 66 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior

Certificate Examination at the end of 1949. 29 candidates were successful in this examination held in 1948. In the rural schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools.

Several new Chinese Schools were registered during 1949 bringing the total number of these schools to 209, with 21,800 pupils and 730 teachers. In the previous year there were 204 schools with 21,282 pupils and 679 teachers. The number of Chinese pupils enrolled in all types of school in Sarawak now amounts to 17.6 per cent of the total Chinese population of the country.

Most Chinese Schools are controlled by Committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from associations and individuals. During the year "block" grants amounting to approximately \$42,000 (£4,900) as compared with \$30,189 (£3,522) in 1948 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at some 77 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of some 14,000 pupils.

There were 2 "Junior Middle" Schools and 9 other schools had combined Primary and Middle Departments. A development of importance during the year was the establishment of a "Senior Middle" course at the American Methodist Chinese School at Sibuluan. The curriculum at Chinese Schools is in general based on that followed by schools in China. The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction but increased attention is being given to the teaching of English as a subject.

Higher Education.

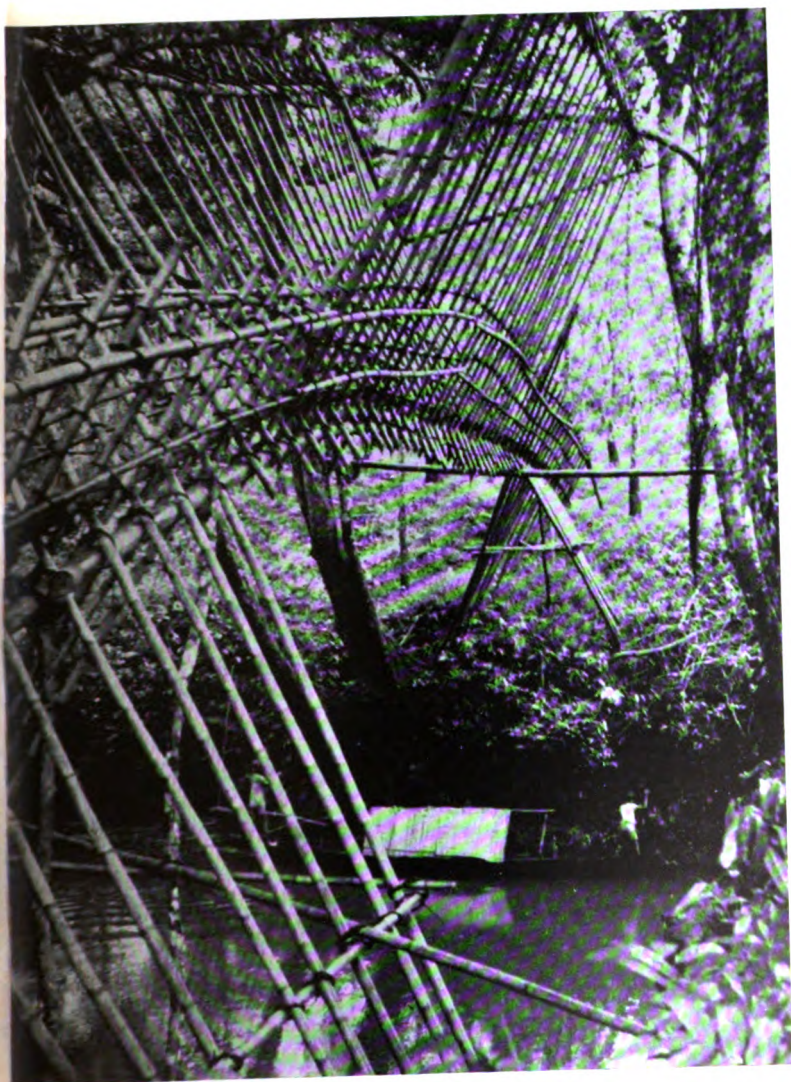
The joint School Certificate class which was established in 1948 with the co-operation of Government and Mission staff continued to function in 1949. Of the 16 students in this class in 1948, 13 were successful in obtaining certificates, and in 1949 the 8 pupils in the class were all successful, three obtaining Grade I certificates. The London Chamber of Commerce Examinations were conducted and a number of candidates passed various grades in clerical and commercial subjects during the year.

The number of Scholarships available still exceeds the number of applicants holding the minimum qualifications for admission to Colleges and Universities. In February, 1949, a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship was awarded to a Sarawak student for a 4-year degree course in Science at a British university. A committee was appointed by Government early in 1949 with the object of advising on the allocation of scholarships for different courses of training and of examining applications and recommending candidates for awards under the various schemes. On the recommendation of this committee one student was awarded a scholarship to enable him to take a degree course in Arts at the University of Malaya, and another student received a scholarship for a Civil Engineering course at the Technical College, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. The Commonwealth of Australia awarded a Fellowship to a Sarawak student for a course in Surveying. Since the Liberation 15 students have completed courses at Colleges in Malaya or Singapore, in Agriculture, Forestry, Dentistry and Surveying. In addition to these students, and to those awarded scholarships during 1949, three Medical Students, one Dental Student, one Agricultural Student and one Surveying Student were taking courses in Singapore or Malaya, one local Nurse was in training in the United Kingdom under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship, and one student, under a scholarship awarded by the British Council, was studying Municipal Administration in England.

Adult Education.

"Night Classes" at a number of Chinese Schools and at a few Government and Mission Schools continued to be well supported, and a few new "Night Schools" were registered during 1949. These courses generally aim at enabling adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and, in a few instances, to study English. In Kuching classes were conducted by the Education Department to assist entrants to Government Service whose standard of education is below the minimum standard required for permanent appointment. During the year a further 65 students reached the requisite standard.

The demand for vernacular literacy among adults was particularly strong among the Sea Dayaks in the Second Division, especially among those in the area of the River Paku where a promising start has been made with Co-operative Societies. It was therefore decided that a pilot



Bamboo foot bridge built by Dayaks of Buan Bidi,
near Bau.

Photograph by J. N. Richards.
Digitized by Google



The Slow Loris.

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scheme in Adult Literacy should be tried in the Paku River area and preparations have been made to begin this after the harvest in the spring of 1950. Concurrently with this project has gone a scheme for the production of literature in the Sea Dayak language. As a beginning an illustrated monthly periodical is to be produced and the first number was due to appear in January, 1950.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities.

There were several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose objects were to foster social, educational and cultural activities. Others provided facilities for games.

The Boy Scouts movement continued to develop. Expansion of the Sea Scouts section was encouraged as this is considered particularly suitable for the riverain country of Sarawak. Coastal voyages were made by the Sea Scouts of the Teacher-training Centre who will, it is hoped, spread the movement throughout the Colony when they are posted, on completion of their course, for duty at schools throughout the country. In the autumn of 1949 a Dayak Sea Scout was sent to England, thanks to a grant made by Imperial Headquarters, and took the Wood Badge course at Gilwell. The two Girl Guide companies in the Mission "English" Schools in Kuching had a successful year and a third company was started at the end of 1949 at a Government Malay School.

The Kuching Boys' Home for Juvenile Delinquents, for which the Education Department assumed responsibility in 1948, made satisfactory progress during 1949. Better accommodation was provided by the reconstruction and conversion of the former Government Dairy Farm buildings, and houses were constructed for the Warden and Assistant Warden.

Development Schemes.

Batu Lintang Scheme.

A Government Teacher-training Centre and Secondary School financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds was opened in 1948 at Batu Lintang near Kuching. The staff consists of a Principal, an Assistant Principal who is a Roman Catholic priest with academic and professional qualifications, and an assistant staff of local teachers of various races. Efforts to recruit an Anglican clergyman as a second Assistant Principal had unfortunately not been successful by

the end of the year. This practical co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school was a most important aspect of the scheme. Another vital feature was the gathering together of students of all races, religions and creeds in order to develop mutual understanding and to foster a corporate spirit.

All student-teachers receive free board, tuition and transport, and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme, irrespective of the financial status of his family.

Because of the urgent need to provide teachers for a rapidly increasing number of schools it was decided to limit the duration of the course, in the first instance, to two years. A few of the students from the most backward races will probably have to remain at the Centre for a longer period. The course was designed to improve the academic standard of all students, including the study of English, and to give them a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods. Considerable emphasis was also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and indigenous cultures. Religious instruction was arranged for both Christian and Muslim students, and chapels for different sects were provided in portions of the huts.

During 1949 there were 115 student-teachers at Batu Lintang of whom approximately 65 were in their first year, and the remainder in their second year of training. This number was composed of representatives of 12 different races of Sarawak and included 10 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei. At the end of the year 40 students completed their training and were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country.

A beginning was made in 1949 with the post-primary academic courses at Batu Lintang by the admission of 27 pupils including 7 from Brunei, who had completed the primary courses in the vernacular in rural schools. An entrance examination was held in June on the results of which a further 17 pupils were to be admitted in 1950.

Rural Improvement School, Kanowit.

This school, which is financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, was opened in 1948.

It was designed to meet the special needs of the large Iban-speaking population living in the interior of the country. In order to improve the living conditions of these peoples it was not sufficient merely to provide schools for the children. It was essential that the adults, both women and men, should be helped simultaneously to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular, and to learn simple "market" arithmetic and elementary civics.

At the end of 1949 twenty-six married couples with their children, drawn from various parts of the Colony, were in residence at the School. During the two-year course these couples receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The Principal was formerly Agricultural Education Officer and is well acquainted with the people and their language and customs. He is assisted by some local people as junior staff and by some visiting craft instructors.

The main building of the school consists of a spacious "community centre", of an improved "longhouse" design. This building provides for classrooms, dining and recreational facilities, a dispensary and accommodation for the assistant staff and some of the pupils and their families. During 1949 six individual houses, of different designs, were built on model small-holdings within the school estate. These provided the pupils with the opportunity of living during the course in both the "improved longhouse" and "individual home", so that through practical experience they could begin to form opinions as to which system would be the more suitable for adoption in their home areas.

The school occupies a site of some 200 acres, one quarter of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the Colony, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations. During 1949 good progress was made with drainage and irrigation, stock-fencing and housing, and with reafforestation.

The first season's crop of padi yielded a better harvest than had been estimated. Some light tractors were lent by the Department of Agriculture and several acres of rough land were cleared. A padi silo to hold 20 tons of padi was built and proved successful.

During the year a Co-operative Stores Society of staff and pupils began business.

The first course is due to end in April, 1950, and in the following month a new intake of approximately 30 couples will be admitted. Plans are being made to secure the smooth return to ordinary life of the couples who have completed their training and to ensure that they have the opportunity to put into practice what they have learnt during their training.

This scheme provides a most interesting experiment in Adult Education of a lengthy and comprehensive type. The course is well designed to fulfil the aims of the training and considerable progress has been made since its inception, but it remains to be seen how successful the pupils will be, when they return to their homes, in spreading the new ideas amongst their neighbours who have not received any such instruction.

Health.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

The senior staff of the Medical and Health Department was considerably below the approved establishment at the beginning of the year, and this deficiency was increased by the departure of the lady medical officer on retirement and the loss of another officer through sickness. These two vacancies were, however, filled before the end of the year. A dental officer and sanitary superintendent arrived during 1949 and the approved establishment of senior nursing personnel was filled by the recruitment of a sister tutor, health visitor and two nursing sisters.

The shortage of local personnel, nurses and hospital assistants, has caused concern throughout the year. The effect of the shortage of nurses has been felt in the maternal and child welfare services, for it has been necessary to recruit midwives for this work as a temporary expedient, since experienced nurses could not be released for training as health visitors.

Throughout the year five midwives have been continuously in training in the General Hospital, Kuching, and in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic. Four completed their training and received certificates.

There was little formal teaching of health inspectors during the year, though two men attended the course in Singapore for the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and were successful in the examination. With the arrival of the sanitary superintendent, however, a start was made with teaching and the aim will be to develop a syllabus of training which will satisfy the Royal Sanitary Institute and enable examinations for the Certificate to be held in Kuching.

On the arrival of the health visitor in March, a small start was made in the training of local personnel in this work. Though it was intended to base training on the United Kingdom system, allocating suitable nurses who had completed general and midwifery training and giving them a year's special training in public health work, it was found possible to spare only one senior staff nurse and was therefore decided that, at least in the first instance, less highly trained personnel would have to be used.

Legislation.

No major public health legislation was enacted during the year. Minor provision was made for the control of certain antibiotics and for extending the range of notifiable infectious diseases.

New Buildings.

At the General Hospital, Kuching, a tuberculosis ward for women was erected and a second wing was added to the nurses home, which can now accommodate fifty-two nurses. Internal alterations were undertaken and additional staff quarters built, and, at the expense of the Kuching Rotary Club, an extension to the children's ward was erected as a playroom. At Sibü a maternity ward was built, providing sixteen beds and a labour room, the cost being defrayed from a gift of \$23,000 made to Government for this purpose from the Sibü Annual Regatta Fund. New dispensaries were built at four stations, three of them being in replacement of inadequate existing structures and to provide rest bed accommodation. Two of these buildings were part of the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for the provision of new dispensaries. Under the same scheme eighteen quarters for hospital assistants were erected at the stations upon which the travelling dispensaries would be based.

Finance.

The expenditure on medical and health services during the year was \$1,161,750 as compared with \$989,531 in 1948.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Sewage Disposal.

There are no major schemes for the water-borne disposal of sewage. In the residential areas of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have septic tank installations, but general nightsoil disposal is by the double-bucket system. There is no doubt that this will have to continue for many years, but every encouragement will be given to the installation of septic tanks in new buildings where practicable. In the villages and less congested areas, river or pit latrines are the rule.

Nightsoil disposal in Kuching is undertaken by the Municipality and the nightsoil is treated in a series of three septic tanks before discharge into the river below the town. In Sibü and Miri the work is carried out by contractors and crude sewage is discharged into the rivers when the tide is ebbing.

Scavenging.

In Kuching collection and disposal of refuse is efficiently carried out by the Municipality, disposal being by controlled tipping in various areas where it is desired to reclaim land. In Sibü the organisation has been greatly improved with the provision of mechanical transport and now operates as in Kuching. Elsewhere refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness and there was a general improvement during the year.

Water Supplies.

The main towns and several small townships have piped supplies collected from controlled catchment areas, but no treatment is undertaken except at Sibü. Here the supply is drawn from the heavily-polluted Rejang River and is treated by storage and chlorination. Elsewhere rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population, but these sources are subject to contamination and are therefore a threat to the public health.

Food.

Food premises in towns operate under licence and are subject to inspection by public health staff when available. Though there has been a slight improvement in conditions, methods of manufacture, storage and preparation for sale remain in many cases primitive. Food hawkers present a major problem; their handling methods are crude and their numbers make control almost impossible; typhoid endemicity and the incidence of intestinal infections therefore remain considerable. The standard of the markets in the towns was reasonably good, as they were subject to departmental inspection and municipal control.

Housing.

Housing shortage continues and overcrowding remains serious in the towns, especially in the bazaar areas. Much of this, however, would continue even if accommodation were unlimited, for the Chinese, occupying the bazaar "shop-houses", make use of every available foot of floor space for themselves, their families, labourers, hawkers and others, who prefer to live close to their places of employment. Overcrowding in premises often deficient in ventilation and light undoubtedly contributes materially to the spread of tuberculosis, one of the Colony's major and growing problems. An attempt has been made to encourage a new design, especially in towns where rebuilding of bazaars, destroyed by the operations of war, has been undertaken, but the conservatism of the Chinese trader and the urgency of rehabilitating trade have militated against it.

In the Malay villages the standard of housing, though not high, is considerably better than in the bazaars. Design and materials, although primitive, lend themselves to better lighting and ventilation and healthier living. This applies especially to the Malay type of house which is raised some eight to ten feet above the ground.

Further inland, among the Kayans and the Dayaks, can be found the typical communal longhouses of the interior peoples, which are in effect rows of from 10 to 60 houses all under one roof. A longhouse consists of a row of rooms and a long wide enclosed verandah where all communal activities are undertaken and where the bachelors live. It is raised above the ground, sometimes twenty feet or more, and is of

massive construction. The longhouses are usually very ill lit and the people live in semi-darkness. Sanitation is very primitive, all refuse and nightsoil going through the floor to be disposed of by the pigs and poultry on the ground below. Several hundred people living under one roof in such circumstances would appear vulnerable to epidemic infection and records suggest that this is the case. Exact information regarding tuberculosis incidence is lacking, but it is probably considerable.

In Kuching town there has been an increase in new building to the extent of nearly 75% more than in 1948, but it is doubtful if this increase has kept pace with the expansion in population. The report submitted by a Chinese sociologist in March, 1949, shows that the overcrowding mentioned above is prevalent in Kuching. An analysis of the present housing situation shows that alleviation of the present conditions, particularly in the bazaar area, can be achieved only by a doubling of the building area. Consideration of this matter is clearly of immediate importance, but its final solution will be the outcome only of a long term building programme.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

The first case in Sarawak's recorded history was diagnosed in March, 1949, and came from a rural area in the interior fifteen miles from Kuching. The disease spread to the Second and Third Divisions and later sporadic cases occurred in Miri and Limbang. Towards the end of the year the incidence had declined markedly except in Sibu and its environs, though even in that area there was a decided slackening as the year closed.

Malaria.

There was no unusual incidence during 1949. All available information indicates that rural areas exhibited their customary endemicity, while towns and trading centres were largely free. The total number of cases diagnosed at hospitals and dispensaries as malaria was 10,389, as against 13,176 in 1948. As in previous years the majority of these cases were diagnosed without microscopical aid.

General anti-mosquito measures in the towns continued as in the previous year. There is, however, no sound basis as yet upon which to organise such measures, for little is yet known about malaria in Sarawak; few spleen or parasite

surveys have been undertaken and the main vectors are not all known with certainty. With the exception, therefore, of the organisation in Miri, which resulted from the sharp epidemic in the 1946-1947 season, no large-scale specific measures were initiated or carried out. Investigation, as far as slender staff resources permitted, was pursued, near Kuching, in the Lower Rejang and in Miri. In the latter place, for the first time in Borneo, salivary gland infected *A. sundiacus* was recorded, an observation of great practical significance, which adds strong support to the expressed opinions of various observers that this mosquito was responsible for the coastal epidemics of malaria.

No investigation was carried out in Sarawak by the Borneo Malaria Research Unit, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, whose activities were limited to the Colony of North Borneo. An application was therefore made for an extension of the scheme for two years to permit the Unit to work in Sarawak, to provide the information necessary for rational control and to train the nucleus of a local organisation to continue research and control with local funds after the termination of the scheme.

Tuberculosis.

1,108 cases were reported and 280 deaths attributed to this cause, as against 1,096 cases and 370 deaths in 1948. The great majority of the cases were of the pulmonary type. The number of cases discovered on medical examination of applicants for employment in the Government service suggests strongly that a systematic survey would reveal a considerably higher incidence.

Bed accommodation for the isolation and care of the tuberculous still falls far short of what is necessary. In Kuching General Hospital the number of beds has been increased during the year by the erection of a ward containing twenty beds for female cases, bringing the total number of tuberculosis beds to fifty. Sibu Hospital has no special beds; a voluntary organisation provides care for a number of cases of chronic tuberculosis, but active treatment is not undertaken. During 1950 it is planned to provide Sibu with X-ray facilities and to build a special tuberculosis ward of twenty beds.

Leprosy.

There is no reason to suspect any change in incidence. 59 cases were diagnosed and admitted to the Leper Settlement as against 67 in 1948. The Settlement population was 418 at the end of the year, compared with 382 at the end of 1948.

Yaws.

This remains one of the commonest and most widespread diseases, and 15,370 cases were diagnosed and treated during the year as against 18,730 in 1948. Regular treatment is difficult when the population is so dispersed, but there are signs that the regular visits of the travelling dispensaries are encouraging infected persons to continue treatment.

Diphtheria.

There was a marked reduction in incidence, only 82 cases being reported as compared with 249 in 1948. The vast majority of the cases were from Kuching and Sibü.

The Enteric Fevers.

The decline in incidence seen in 1948 continued during the year, when 107 cases were diagnosed as against 153 in the previous year. As formerly Sibü was the main centre of incidence, but here too there was a substantial reduction.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

The number of persons seeking treatment at outstation dispensaries continues to be high. There were no major outbreaks of dysentery during the year, though primitive living conditions outside the towns make the occurrence of epidemic likely.

Helminthiasis.

A very large proportion of the population constantly harbour intestinal worms, especially ascaris. Ankylostomiasis is also common, being associated with defective sanitation and the use of nightsoil as fertiliser in agriculture.

Veneral Diseases.

Outside the towns the incidence is relatively low, and it is not unduly high even in the towns. During the year 839 cases of gonorrhoea and 1,883 cases of syphilis were diagnosed at Government hospitals and dispensaries.

Non-endemic Diseases.

Sarawak has been free for many years from smallpox, plague, cholera and typhus. There is no record that epidemic typhus has ever occurred, but it is possible that endemic typhus is present, although no case has yet been diagnosed with certainty. A considerable amount of vaccination against smallpox has been undertaken since the war, but the major portion of the population is still non-immune.

Malnutrition and Deficiency Diseases.

Though gross nutritional deficiency is seldom encountered, a very considerable proportion of the population, both rural and urban, shows signs of undernourishment. No measure is available of the degree of malnutrition in rural areas, but the records of the Maternity and Child Welfare service in Kuching indicate that 22% of some 1,200 babies, attending during nine months of 1949, showed undernourishment in varying degree, and malnutrition among women and nursing mothers was not uncommon. Arrangements were made during the year to supply hospitals with vitamin-enriched rice to mix with the ordinary rice supplies, and milk and fat supplements were provided at the clinics to mothers and babies whose need was great. Shortage of staff still precludes the carrying out of nutritional surveys, and no feeding schemes were undertaken.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

By the end of the year Government was operating three hospitals, twenty-five outstation dispensaries and three travelling dispensaries, two of which were river craft and one a road vehicle. Most outstation dispensaries have from six to twelve rest beds and in-patient treatment of a simple nature can be provided. Sarawak Oilfields Limited at Miri operates its own hospital of 124 beds for its employees; by arrangement with the Company, its medical facilities are available to the public on repayment by Government, which as far as possible recovers costs from the patients concerned. A similar arrangement with the Government of Brunei enables the peoples of the Fifth Division to receive treatment in the Brunei Hospital. Out-patient attendances have reached a total fifty per cent higher than in 1948 and there has been a ten per cent increase in the number of in-patients.

General Hospital, Kuching.

This is the largest and most elaborate medical institution in the Colony and it finished the year with 300 general and

special beds and 100 mental beds. It is the training centre for hospital assistants, nurses and midwives and, in spite of shortage of senior staff, the volume of work undertaken was larger than in previous years and there was a steady raising of hospital standards.

The vast majority of the patients treated are Chinese, who accounted for 65.85% of the 5,207 admissions; Dayaks and Malays provide 18% and 10% of the admissions.

A new X-ray diagnostic plant arrived in the latter part of the year. The laboratory was greatly improved; manufacture of vaccines was begun and sufficient anti-typhoid and anti-cholera vaccine was prepared to meet the needs of the Colony.

The mental section remains unsatisfactory, with serious overcrowding. During the year agreement in principle was reached with the North Borneo and Brunei Governments on the establishment of a joint mental hospital.

Central Dispensary, Kuching.

This is the out-patient department of the General Hospital, situated in the centre of the town, and consists of separate male and female sections. The accommodation is at present shared with the headquarters of the Maternity and Child Welfare organisation, and is inadequate and not entirely suitable. Daily attendances averaged 600 during the year, though there was some falling off in the latter part, when the charging of nominal fees was instituted.

Dental Clinic, Kuching.

This is located in the General Hospital and consists of two adequately-equipped dental surgeries and a laboratory. The staff at the end of the year consisted of a dental officer, a local dentist trained in the U.S.A. and a dental mechanic trained in Singapore, and it was possible, for the first time since the war, to provide limited, but efficient, dental service to the vulnerable population groups in Kuching and to employees of Government and others who desired skilled attention. Surveys of school children were also begun.

Although there are some 160 registered dentists practising in the Colony, none but the Government staff hold any dental degrees or diplomas. Though the general standard of the majority is poor by western standards, they do fulfil a public need and will, for many years to come, provide the only dental care available outside the main towns.

Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibulau.

The erection during the year of a 16-bedded maternity ward with labour room brought into operation a total of 84 general and special beds by the end of the year. With two medical officers available throughout the year, there was a marked improvement in general standards and a large increase in the amount of work done. Though staff is not yet entirely adequate, this hospital was relatively better off than the General Hospital, Kuching. At the end of the year a nursing sister was posted to the hospital for the first time.

In-patients numbered 2,550 and out-patients 29,832, as against 1,785 and 30,907 in 1948.

During 1950 the X-ray apparatus formerly used in the General Hospital, Kuching, will be moved to Sibulau, and an extension of the hospital, including a tuberculosis ward, a mental block, a new out-patient department and nurses' home, is planned.

Simanggang Hospital.

This was formerly the largest of the outstation dispensaries, and its conversion into a small hospital began with the posting, for the first time, of a medical officer to Simanggang in December. Additional staff and much equipment were provided and twenty beds were in use by the end of the year. New construction, to provide for stores, laboratory and out-patient department, is planned for 1950, and it is hoped by 1951 to develop the institution into a 40 or 50-bed hospital.

Outstation Dispensaries.

There was an increase of one during the year, bringing the total to twenty-five. The provisional figure for attendances was 137,485, and 1,361 patients were admitted to rest beds. Three dispensaries were replaced by new buildings providing better accommodation. Good work was done but, through shortage of staff, supervision was slight. In general the work done by the hospital assistants, often under difficult circumstances, was admirable.

Travelling Dispensaries (Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D.830).

The first two dispensaries, operating by river boat, which were planned to work during the first two years of training and preparation for the full scheme, to provide information

and experience in operating this new type of dispensary, performed their function well and gave good service to large numbers of people living in the deltas of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers. Schedules covering five days a week were maintained with remarkable regularity, though both boats had to undergo major overhauls owing to damage done to the hulls by borer beetles, and the engines of the Sibu boat were out of action for a time. These troubles have, however, proved instructive, and it is clear that the closest supervision and much hard work will be required in future to maintain the scattered fleet of travelling dispensaries on the remote rivers of the Colony.

Experience has shown that the scheme is a practicable one and immensely popular with the people. Apart from providing curative treatment, the boats serve as river ambulances bringing to the hospitals those who require more elaborate treatment; for various reasons, connected with the habits and customs of the people, this function is slow in developing. The travelling dispensaries also provided valuable medical intelligence throughout the year, locating cases of poliomyelitis along their routes during the sharp outbreak in the second half of the year.

Leper Settlement.

This institution is situated thirteen miles from Kuching and is accessible by motor road. At the end of the year there were 418 inmates, as compared with 382 at the end of 1948, living in conditions not very dissimilar from those of normal village communities. Preliminary observations on the results of sulphethrone therapy are encouraging and there has been undoubted and obvious clinical improvement in many cases.

A pleasing feature of the year was the development of social welfare activities. The settlement school became solidly established, a boy scout troop was formed; the local branch of the British Red Cross Society organised a working group in the settlement and, by weekly visits, did much to encourage community effort; the Rotary Club too did good work, especially in organising and financing periodic cinema shows. Most important of all perhaps was the formation of a Settlement Advisory Committee to represent to the Superintendent the views and wishes of the inmates and to assist him in the administration of the settlement.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

The organisation has had insufficient space available in its headquarters, which have been shared with the Central Dispensary. The arrival of the health visitor in March increased attendances and, despite accommodation difficulties, progress has been rapid. Ante-natal and child welfare work have been firmly established and, though the vast majority of those attending have been Chinese, there have latterly been signs of growing appreciation of the value of the clinics by other communities. A subsidiary centre was opened in a school in the heart of the Malay *kampongs* and it is now running smoothly with a good attendance. Clinics were held each week, ante-natal sessions alternating with child welfare. The child welfare clinics were very popular, though they tended to be regarded as places to which to bring sick children. Post-natal clinics have had to be incorporated in the child welfare clinics, and still the majority of the women attending do so because of definite complaints.

The ordinary work of the clinic left the staff little time for health education by means of talks and demonstrations. Some lecturing was, however, done and for a time weekly sessions were held at which health educational films were shown and enlarged upon by the health visitor.

Home visiting, an activity entirely new in this country, was initiated by the health visitor and her staff in March, and visits were on the whole well received. In Malay and many Chinese homes neither mother nor infant are permitted to leave the house in which the confinement took place for a period of forty days; during this period many difficulties to both are likely to arise and home visiting is then especially important.

Towards the end of the year it was decided to extend the work to a rural area fifteen miles from Kuching. Suitable premises were rented in a small rural bazaar serving a fairly well populated Land Dayak area, and preparations were well advanced to open a welfare centre there at the beginning of 1950.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

This is based upon the Quarantine Rules, 1932, which are not in accord with recent international conventions. It has not yet been possible to enact new rules, but in practice

the spirit of the International Sanitary Convention was followed as far as possible. Kuching, Sarikei and Miri are first ports of call for vessels from overseas. Health inspectors are stationed there and formalities are conducted by them. No infected vessels entered the Colony's ports during the year.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH.

British Red Cross Society—Sarawak Branch.

The Branch was very active during the year, its largest single venture being the establishment of an ambulance service which was closely co-ordinated with that of the Medical Department. The ambulance, costing \$10,000, was a gift to the Branch from the Society and it began to operate in August, running weekly to Serian in conjunction with the Department's travelling (road) dispensary. During the period of its operation it has transported 53 convalescent patients to their homes and brought 87 sick persons to the General Hospital.

The Branch's blood transfusion service has been of the greatest help to the General Hospital. A Red Cross First Aid Post, established and conducted by the Branch at the 24th mile from Kuching, has provided good service. In the General Hospital and Leper Settlement a great deal of welfare work has been done and sewing and occupational handicrafts taught. The Society has also presented a very useful library of text books and reference books to the Nurses' Training School.

Sibu Benevolent Society.

This organisation continued to do most useful work in caring for destitute aged and also chronic tuberculosis cases in their Home near Sibu and their Nursing Home in Sibu. The Department undertook medical supervision of the latter, which accommodates some fifty chronic invalids. The Society is supported by public subscription and a monthly contribution from Government.

Missions.

There are still no medical missions in the Colony, but simple out-patient treatment continued to be provided at several mission stations and, at two, in-patients were cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

Social Welfare.

Though Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department as such, the Government does in fact perform a considerable amount of social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of Women and Girls, and administers a repatriation vote. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund to which the Government contributes. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Settlement, now known as the Home for the Aged.

A Social Welfare Advisory Committee was formed in 1948 and has done good work in advising Government on social welfare policy and practice. During the past year a Social Welfare Council has also been established, which includes representatives of all the various organisations which are interested in this kind of work, as well as of the general public. The executive side of its work is assisted by a local-born probation officer, who returned during 1949 from Singapore, where he had completed a year's intensive training in social work, both theoretical and practical.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a community life. The longhouse system ensures that the individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster-parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the padi harvest.

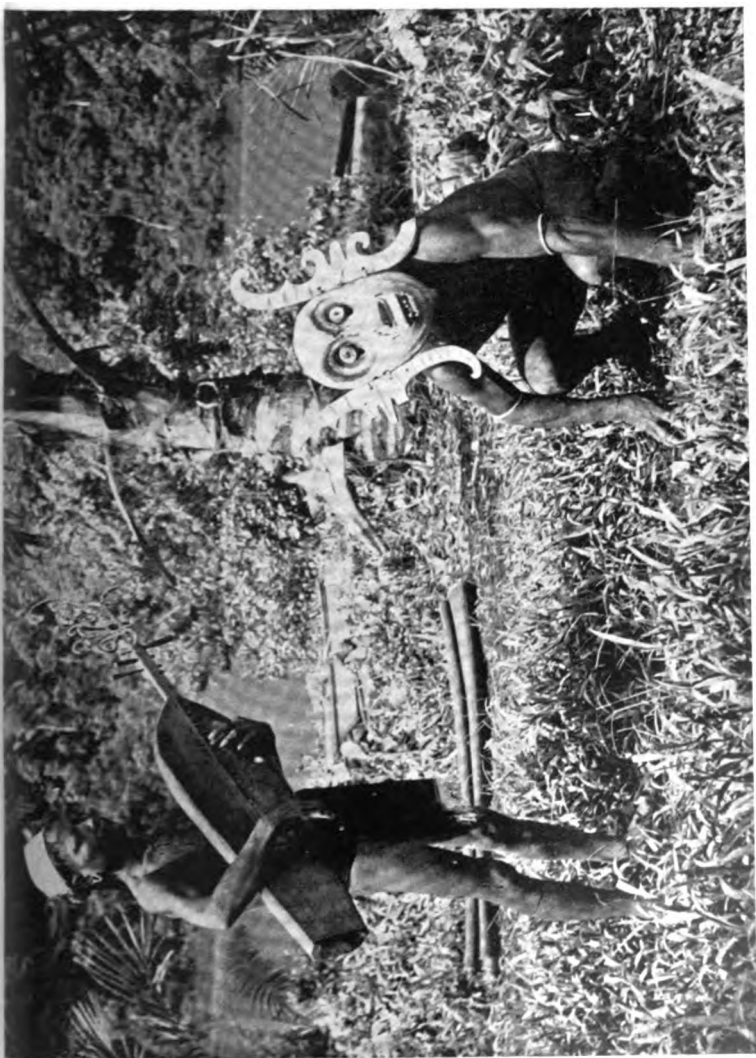
There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own associations, which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Home for the Aged near Kuching. In Sibü, thanks to the efforts of a committee consisting of members of all communities, a Benevolent Society has been established to which reference has been made above. This Society, aided by a grant from Government and with

considerable assistance from the Roman Catholic Mission in respect of nursing staff and supervision, runs its own nursing home for the indigent and is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain outstations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs, societies and youth organisations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency exists in the principal towns, and a start has been made to tackle the problem in Kuching. The Boys' Home, opened in 1948 and now under the direction of the Education Department, continues its good work of turning budding criminals into useful citizens. The boys are in no way confined.

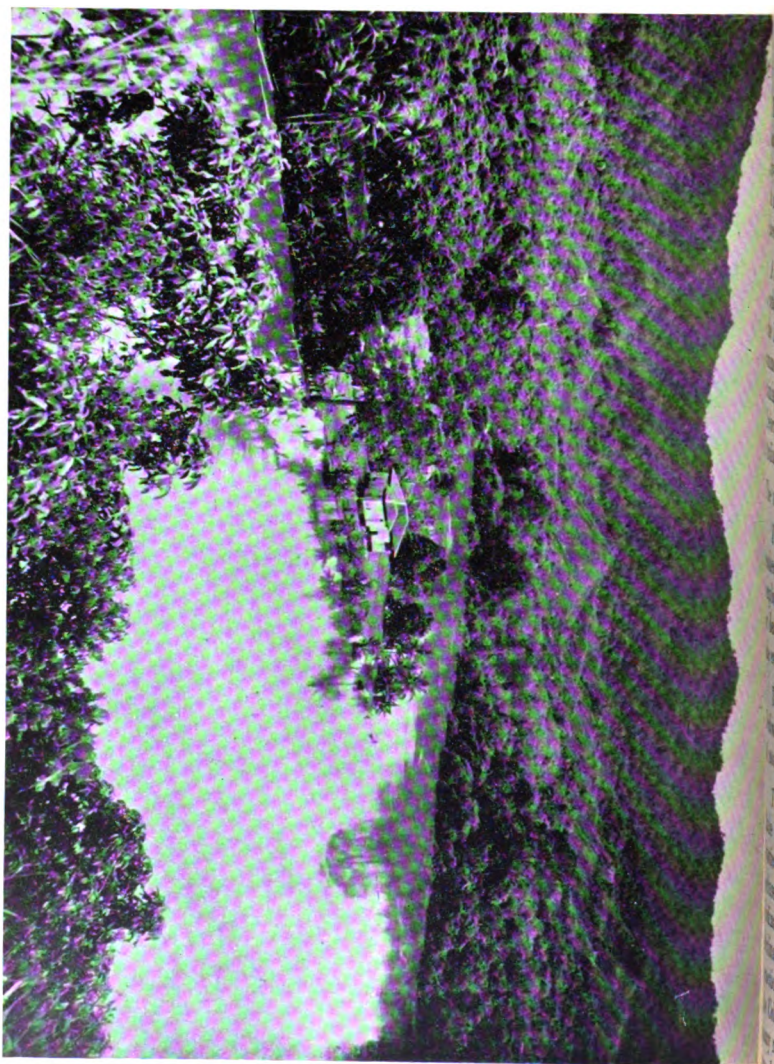
In August a Boys' Club and Hostel was opened in a poor quarter of Kuching. The Club, on the lower floor of the building, is open from noon till 8.15 p.m., and provides a radio set, ping-pong tables and newspapers; outside these periods football is organised for the boys on a nearby recreation ground. The Hostel on the upper floor can accommodate up to twelve boys and is intended to provide a temporary home for homeless youths between the ages of 14 and 20. The Warden and Board of Management help boys to find employment.

The excellent work done by the Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society has been referred to above. The Kuching Rotary Club has also continued throughout the year its useful voluntary social services, paying regular visits to the Boys' Home, Leper Settlement, Jail and Home for the Aged, assisting discharged prisoners through its Prisoners' Aid Committee, and supplying sports equipment for the Boys' Home.



Masked Kayan dancing, while another plays the *sapel*, Balui River.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.



Fort Vyner, Belaga.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

CHAPTER 8.

Legislation.

During the year steady progress in the reform of legislation has continued. At the two meetings of Council Negri, thirty-three Ordinances were enacted of which only ten dealt with new subjects while twenty-one amended or repealed and replaced existing laws.

A further step was taken in the revision of the laws by the publication at the beginning of 1949, under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws (Additional Volumes) Ordinance, 1948, of a fourth volume of the Revised Edition containing, *inter alia*, the subsidiary legislation in force on 1st February, 1949, and made under Chapters 1 to 26 of the Ordinances of the Colony.

The more important Ordinances enacted were—

The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance which makes provision for the payment of compensation by employers to workmen and their dependants for injuries or death resulting from accidents arising out of and in the course of their employment.

The Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) Insurance Ordinance which makes compulsory third party insurance of motor vehicles.

The Rule Committee Ordinance which establishes a Rule Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Justice, with power to make rules governing civil procedure in the Courts. Prior to the enactment of this Ordinance, apart from a few rules made under the Courts Ordinance, 1947, civil procedure was governed by the practice of the Courts, which varied in different parts of the Colony. During the year the Rule Committee made many rules and thus the task of creating a code of civil procedure has been commenced.

The Natural Resources Ordinance which repealed and replaced the Prevention of Erosion Ordinance (Cap. 34). This Ordinance empowers a Board, established under the Ordinance, and Local Authorities to take measures to protect the natural resources of the Colony.

The Mining Ordinance which repealed and replaced the Mining Ordinance (Cap. 89). The latter Ordinance was out of date and insufficient for the proper development of the mineral resources of the Colony.

The Income Tax Ordinance which makes provision for a tax on the incomes of individual persons and companies. The Ordinance provides for a tax on the incomes of companies with effect from 1st January, 1950, but it is not proposed to bring into force at present the provisions as to a tax on the incomes of individuals.

The Trades Licensing Ordinance which is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and imposes taxation, by way of a small licence fee, on certain trades and businesses. Trades and businesses the profits of which are liable to income tax are exempted from the provisions of the Ordinance.

The Debtor and Creditor (Occupation Period) Ordinance which governs the relationship between debtors and creditors in respect of debts arising prior to or during the Japanese occupation of the Colony.

The National Registration Ordinance which establishes a system for the registration of, and issue of identity cards to, persons resident in or entering the Colony.

The Pensions Ordinance, the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Ordinance and the Government Employees Provident Fund Ordinance which replaced the existing Pensions Legislation. These three Ordinances make provision, on modern lines, for pensions for officers in the service of the Government of the Colony and holding pensionable office and for the widows and orphans of such officers, and establish a provident fund for certain non-pensionable employees in the service of the Government. Officers to whom the old legislation applied are given the option of remaining subject to that legislation. The rights of persons to whom pensions have been granted under the old legislation, and the rights of officers who elect to remain under it, are fully safeguarded.

During the last three years substantial progress has been made, but there are still many legislative reforms required. Now that an Assistant Attorney-General has been appointed and is due to arrive in the Colony early in 1950, it should be possible to increase the rate of progress.

CHAPTER 9.

Justice, Police and Prisons.

JUSTICE.

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. The many indigenous tribes in the Colony have their own *adat* or customary law, and in some cases native customs have been embodied in Codes. It is said that some of these Codes, especially the Malay Undang-Undang and the Tusun Tunggu (or Code of Iban Customs), are authoritative and equivalent to statute law, but the Supreme Court has not yet been called upon to decide the extent to which that is so.

Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance, is recognized to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance. The Chief Justice said in a leading case: "The notion, still held by some Magistrates, that Chinese customary law is part of the law of Sarawak, must be exploded. The Courts cannot extend the field within which Chinese custom is recognized; that is the province of the legislature."

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the Colony and of its inhabitants permit and subject to such qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

There are two hierarchies of Courts in Sarawak—those constituted under the Courts Ordinance and those constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance.

The Courts constituted under the Courts Ordinance, as modified by the later legislation, are the Supreme Court, the Circuit Courts, and the various Magistrates' Courts. The Chief Justice constitutes the Supreme Court and the work of that Court lies chiefly in the exercise of appellate and revisional jurisdiction and jurisdiction under the Matrimonial

Causes Ordinance. The Circuit Courts are presided over by professional Judges and have unlimited jurisdiction in almost all matters, whether civil or criminal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal), the Court of Small Causes (civil), the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal).

The Supreme Court has its headquarters in Kuching, but sits as occasion may require in Sibu, Miri, Simanggang and Limbang. The two Circuit Courts have their headquarters in Kuching and Sibu respectively.

The Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

POLICE.

The Sarawak Constabulary was reinforced during the year by the arrival of three gazetted officers to fill vacant posts on the establishment, and at the end of 1949 it consisted of 9 gazetted officers, 20 inspectors, 6 sub-inspectors and 1,021 other ranks. As the approved strength was 10 gazetted officers, 20 inspectors, 7 sub-inspectors and 1,076 other ranks, the force was 57 below establishment.

The racial composition of the Constabulary was:—

Malays	... 42.76%	Sea Dayaks	... 32.90%
Melanaus	... 8.18%	Land Dayaks	... 7.24%
Sikhs	... 3.57%	Chinese	... 1.97%
Javanese and other	...	Europeans	... 0.85%
Indonesians	... 1.03%	Kayans	... 0.28%
Filipinos	... 0.38%	Indian Muslims	... 0.28%
Kenyahs	... 0.28%	Dusuns	... 0.09%
Muruts	... 0.19%		

Numerically, recruiting was fairly satisfactory and it was necessary on some occasions to hold up the intake of recruits owing to lack of accommodation. From the physical and educational point of view, however, the standard cannot be said to have improved on that of the previous year. Of necessity there are still a large number of men who enter the force completely illiterate, and in the majority of cases their progress is very slow. Figures showing the intake and output of recruits during the year are :—

Recruits under training, 1-1-49	...	134
Recruits enlisted during the year	...	154
Recruits transferred to Sectors during the year	...	75
Recruits discharged as unlikely to become efficient	...	48
Recruits under training, 31-12-49	...	165

The training programme was completely overhauled during the year and the standard of training reached by recruits who have passed out since this revision has fully justified the change. More time and care have been devoted to the teaching of law and police duties, and the field training, formerly completely out of date, has been modernised.

Three promotion courses and one refresher course were held, a much higher standard being required for a pass than in previous years. Of the 71 constables who attended these courses, 28 passed and qualified for promotion to lance-corporal. Examinations in higher and lower law and for first and second class certificates were also held and again, owing to a stricter system of marking, successes were fewer than in previous years:—

<i>Examination</i>	<i>Number of candidates</i>	<i>Passed</i>
Higher Law in English	... 3	2
Lower Law in English	... 8	3
Lower Law in Romanized	... 190	25
First Class Certificate	... 356	115
Second Class Certificate	... 184	163

In addition, 6 inspectors sat for a Senior Service law examination, and 5 passed.

Offences against discipline numbered 707 as compared with 522 in 1948, the increase being mainly due to the higher standard of discipline demanded now that the force is

approaching full strength. There is still much room for improvement and this can best be obtained by raising the standard of non-commissioned officers, who must be made to realise their responsibilities.

The health of the force has improved considerably during the year, the total number of admissions to hospital being 187 as against 451 in 1948. The total number of man-days spent in hospital was 1,829 as against 2,314 in 1948. Facilities for sports have been handicapped throughout the Colony by the lack of gear and the funds necessary to provide it. Police teams have, however, done well in some local championships.

The Band has been giving regular performances in the Museum gardens, which have been well attended by members of the public. It has also attended all guards of honour mounted, and has played in a number of outstations. At the end of December a European bandmaster arrived.

The Special Branch was formed in June, with the arrival of an officer recruited for the purpose.

The Sarawak Constabulary Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society was started in September, and by the end of the year had a membership of 263 and a capital of \$1,699. The response from the men has been very encouraging.

Approval was given by Government during the year to the establishment of a Special Constabulary of 500 officers and men. Units were recruited at Kuching, Sibu and Miri, where weekly parades were held and elementary drill and police duties were taught, and at the end of the year the total strength was 343.

Crime.

There was a slight decrease in crime, 1,232 seizable cases being reported as against 1,500 during 1948. Total convictions were 496 as against 638. Crimes of violence remained about the same as in the previous year, there being 8 murders, 6 robberies and 52 cases of aggravated assault, as against corresponding figures of 11, 6 and 38 in 1948. The principal offences were those against property, and comparative figures are given below:—

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Reports.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>	<i>Ratio of reports to convictions.</i>
Theft and Theft in dwelling	1940	1,371	231	1 to 5.93
	1946	1,653	252	1 to 6.32
	1947	1,036	258	1 to 4.01
	1948	879	259	1 to 3.39
	1949	750	232	1 to 3.23
House-breaking	1940	48	6	1 to 8
	1946	97	13	1 to 7.46
	1947	82	24	1 to 3.41
	1948	114	25	1 to 4.56
	1949	74	11	1 to 6.72

In only 7 cases, as compared with 20 in 1948, was the property, the subject of theft or theft in a dwelling, of a value exceeding \$500. 322 reports were in connection with property worth \$25 or less.

There was an increase of 828 in reports of non-seizable offences under laws other than the Penal Code. This was due mainly to increased police action under the Municipal and Vehicles Ordinances.

A new scheme for the policing of the Colony was drawn up by the Acting Commissioner and submitted to Government during the year, receiving approval in principle. It is, in brief, to reduce the number of static police stations to about 20 and to give much wider police cover to the country as a whole by constant patrolling.

PENAL ADMINISTRATION.

Prison administration is under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons with headquarters in Kuching. There are four main prisons, situated at Kuching, Simanggang, Sibul and Miri, a female jail at Bau and seventeen small outstation jails, the latter being used only for prisoners serving terms of one month or less.

There has been an improvement in discipline and efficiency, with the return of twelve warders from training courses in Singapore, and the strength of the staff is now up to establishment for the first time for several years.

There has been a decrease in admissions to the jails during the year. Four trade parties have been started, and

these will considerably increase the prison revenues. Brick-making has proved a success, as also have the carpenters', tinsmiths' and mat-making shops. Other trade parties make baskets and reseat chairs, make and repair staff uniforms and prisoners' clothing and do laundry work. There are now very few prisoners engaged in outside work. It is hoped that in 1950 all uniforms required by Government Departments, including the Constabulary, will be manufactured by the tailors' shop in the Kuching jail.

All jails are visited monthly by Visiting Boards, consisting of Magistrates and members of the various communities. The Kuching Rotary Club have formed a voluntary Prisoners' Aid Committee, which deals with the rehabilitation of prisoners discharged from Kuching jail. The Prison authorities also endeavour to assist discharged prisoners in obtaining work.

The majority of the prisoners appear to be happy and contented. In May a system of leaders and trusted prisoners was instituted, a leader earning \$2 a week and a trusted prisoner \$1.50. Out of these payments 50 cents a week goes into compulsory savings, to be returned to the prisoner on discharge, while with the balance he can purchase small extras, such as tobacco, sugar, jam and sauces. This system has proved a great success, and Government has approved the introduction from the beginning of 1950 of an earning scheme for all prisoners serving over one month's imprisonment. Discipline has been good throughout the year. There were 7 escapes, as against 20 in 1948, and 3 men were recaptured. All escapes were from prison gangs working outside or within the jail precincts.

The Kuching jail is still unsatisfactory, as there are no proper facilities for segregation or for recreation. As far as possible, habitual offenders are kept separate from first offenders. New remand and punishment cells, as well as condemned cells and an execution building, have been constructed during the year. Executions were formerly carried out by shooting, but it has been decided that from 1950 they shall be carried out by hanging. Three warders, who volunteered for the duty of assistant executioner, were sent to Singapore during the year for a two months' course.

Part of the ground floor of the Kuching jail has been converted into a prison hospital, equipped with six beds, in

charge of a hospital assistant. It is visited daily by a medical officer.

At the end of the year there were 14 recidivists out of a total of 159 prisoners serving sentences, and there appear to be very few confirmed criminals who are continually in and out of jail.

Great interest has been shown by a number of prisoners in education, and many are learning English and Romanized Malay. The prison library has been augmented and books in Malay, Chinese and English are exchanged quarterly between the various divisional jails. The Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society makes a weekly donation of books and periodicals to the library. Badminton and volley ball are still very popular during the recreational period. Visits have been paid to prisoners in the divisional jails by members of various religious organisations.

Juvenile offenders serve their sentences normally in the Kuching Boys' Home, which is administered by the Education Department.

CHAPTER 10.

Public Utilities and Public Works.

Electricity Supplies.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company, Ltd., is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. It was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibu and Mukah, and Government holds the majority of the shares, Messrs. United Engineers, Ltd., being the other shareholders and General Managers. The Company's policy has been a progressive one of modernising the existing stations and installing generating plant in the smaller townships.

At the time of the Japanese occupation in 1941 the Company was operating generating stations at Kuching, Sibu, Mukah, Sarikei, Binatang, Simanggang and Bintulu, all powered by diesel plant and supplying lighting at a charge to the consumer of 20 cents per unit. In Kuching the Company also operated an ice factory, retailing ice to the public at 1 cent per lb. On the reoccupation it was found that two generating sets in Kuching had been removed, the Mukah and Bintulu stations were almost destroyed and the remaining plant was in a very bad condition owing to neglect and lack of maintenance.

During 1945-1946 the Company was busily engaged in rehabilitating these stations and maintaining a gradually improving standard of supply to the public. Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, however, this work has proceeded slowly. During 1948 the restoration of Mukah and Bintulu stations was completed and these are now giving a 12-hours' supply daily. In the same year a new station at Betong began operating. These stations are of 25/50 KW capacity only and are primarily for lighting the townships. On completion, however, of the change from D.C. to A.C. supply at Sibu, additional generating equipment will be available for Binatang, Simanggang and Betong stations.

In December, 1947, a restricted supply service was started in Miri, after negotiations with Sarawak Oilfields, Ltd., and the Government. As the maximum demand is about 84 KW,

while output is only 75 KW, it is necessary to restrict supply nightly, but plans are in hand for improvement. It is proposed in the first instance to extend the existing D.C. supply rather than install expensive new A.C. equipment.

During 1947 a new 140 KW Alternating Current generating set was ordered for the Sibü station. A section of the town was changed over to A.C. supply in June, 1949, but the new set did not arrive until later in the year. Installation was completed in December and it is hoped to complete the change over to all consumers by the middle of 1950.

In Kuching the new 400 KW set, partly erected in 1947, was still awaiting further engine parts at the end of 1949. Increased demand by the public for electricity has put a strain on the pre-war generating sets, and complete overhauls have not been possible owing to the necessity of running them continuously. The position was aggravated by the failure of the supercharger of one of these A.C. sets, which necessitated the imposition of restrictions from February to the end of the year, in order to shed 10% of the load nightly. A new supercharger has now arrived and will be fitted early in January, 1950. The parts for the new 400 KW set are due to arrive early in 1950 and it is expected that additional output will be available in March or April. The maximum demand on the station for the year was 652 KW as against 638 KW in 1948, and the number of units generated was 2,193,892 as against 1,948,217 in 1948.

The present charge for lighting is 27½ cents per unit.

A new plant was installed in the ice factory in Kuching in April. This gives an output of 4 tons a day, making a total output available of 8 tons a day, which meets the public demand.

Dockyard and Engineering Services.

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works, Kuching, is a publicly-owned establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management appointed by the Government.

The dry dock, opened in 1921, is 240 feet in length, 40 feet wide at the entrance, and vessels up to 9 feet draft can be docked at spring tides. The dock entrance is closed by a steel caisson operated by the rise and fall of the tide, pumping machinery being installed to deal with water below low tide level. A 10-ton capacity fixed jib crane, operated by steam, is installed at the dock wharf.

Adjacent to the dry dock is a slipway constructed to accommodate launches up to 40 feet in length and 13 feet beam. There is also a machine shop equipped with a range of machine tools, electric and oxy-acetylene welding apparatus and a small brass melting furnace. This shop is suitable for general mechanical engineering repairs, comprising maintenance to hulls and machinery of local vessels and public and privately-owned plant and equipment.

A staff of 42 permanent employees under a Manager, appointed by the Board, is maintained. This staff has been kept fully employed during the year, and a small favourable balance has been obtained over the year's working. The workshops have been changed over to A.C. electric power; this has made it possible to fit individual electric motor drive to the machines, thus eliminating dangerous and uneconomical lineshafts with belt drives to the machines. During the year '47 vessels were dry-docked and 19 launches used the slipway for repairs.

Water Supplies.

Kuching.

The source of supply is at Matang, a mountain range 3,000 feet high, about ten miles west of Kuching. The catchment area is a waterworks reserve. The quality of the water is excellent and it is not treated in any way. The collection system consists of diversion dams in four mountain streams and one small impounding reservoir. The dams are at a suitable height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The mountain range rises abruptly from the coastal plain and investigations over a period of many years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level. The water is collected and brought to Kuching through $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of open channel and $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles of pipe. The pipe line crosses the Sarawak River on a 700-foot-span suspension bridge, erected for this purpose. During heavy rain the control valves at the diversion dams are closed and the water supply is taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching. The latter consist of one 2-million-gallon pressed steel tank, two concrete service basins and one reinforced concrete water tower.

Approximately 2,500 services are connected to the system and all private services are metered. The charge for water is 45 cents per thousand gallons, with a minimum of \$1 a

month. The smallest size of meter is provided free, and there is a small rent for the larger sizes.

Increase in population since the war and the poor state of the service pipes and meters has resulted in an increased consumption. It has therefore been necessary to curtail the supply to certain parts of the town for a few hours each day throughout the year. Nevertheless consumption during 1949 averaged 1,220,000 gallons a day. Work on the replacement of defective services and the overhaul of meters has progressed as far as supplies have permitted, but much remains to be done.

The main pipe line from Matang was due for replacement before the war owing to severe corrosion of the steel pipe. The first consignment of 3 miles of 15" cast iron pipes arrived during 1948 and the balance has been delivered during the past year. The balance of valves and "specials" is still awaited, and on their arrival the work of laying the new main will begin. The replacement of this pipe line and of one feeder pipe line will give an increased supply except during periods of drought. Provision is being made for investigation for additional supply to meet increasing demands.

An additional pressed steel storage tank (1,600,000-gallons capacity) has been ordered for erection in 1950/51.

Sibu.

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation at the beginning of 1947. The operation involves pumping by centrifugal pumps from the Rejang River to a purification plant and the pumping of the purified water to storage tanks approximately 90 feet above the level of the town, thence by gravity $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sibu bazaar, with branch and booster station for the supply of outlying districts.

The quality of the water supplied is good and a satisfactory 20-hours' service has been maintained daily throughout the year. Relaying of town mains was carried out during the year and a satisfactory distribution service is now in operation.

Installations of new services have been limited by availability of the smaller size pipes. There is a growing demand for extension of services and water mains.

Mukah.

The entire water installation, including pumps, motors, piping and tanks, was removed by the Japanese. A survey and design for a new supply was completed in 1948. This will include a pumped supply through $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 7" main, rapid settling tanks, pressure filters and 50,000-gallon high level tank. Financial considerations have made it necessary to proceed slowly with this work, but it is hoped to make a start in 1950.

- Sarikei and Binatang.

The water supply has been maintained by the use of a water barge of 36,000-gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu. As 1949 was unusually wet, very little demand was made on this barge.

The provision of a piped supply to these towns presents many problems; the area is low-lying, and river and surface water brackish. A scheme to bring water from ten miles inland was investigated in 1940-41, but was considered unsatisfactory owing to the high cost and the fact that the projected supply was barely adequate for current requirements. As the population of both towns has considerably increased since then, the project is certainly not attractive to-day. A more satisfactory alternative would be a pumped supply from Sibu, where the river water is fresh, but it is not possible at the moment to proceed with a scheme of such magnitude. The present system of rain water collection, supplemented by barge supply, is providing the essential needs of these towns.

Tanjong Mani.

This is a deep-water port on the lower reaches of the Rejang. It is scheduled for development, but at present does not possess a town or village. Water is delivered to large ships by lighter from Sibu, a service very much appreciated by these ships. During 1949 the total amount conveyed was 1,026 tons.

Miri.

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields, Ltd., water mains under the pre-war arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply Government quarters in the Tanjong Lobang and Brighton areas of the town.

Bintulu.

The water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" asbestos pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000-gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of similar pipe acts as a distributing main. The water is of very good quality and requires no purification. The 54 shophouses constructed during the year were connected to the supply, which gives a 24-hours' service.

Limbang.

A limited gravity supply of good water is available.

Public Works.

As in previous years, a large part of the expenditure approved for public works in 1949 was spent on restoration of buildings and services and construction of new buildings, mainly quarters, barracks and offices.

In Kuching two blocks of police barracks, seven Senior Service quarters, twenty-three Junior Service quarters, and staff quarters for the General Hospital and the Batu Lintang Training Centre were built. Senior Service housing is still a problem, as construction cannot keep pace with the rate of new arrivals, and, in order to relieve the situation, four temporary bungalows were erected in the residential area to the north of the river. Other major works included a tuberculosis ward for females, a new office for the Governor, a rice godown at the rice mill, a new office for the Geological Survey Department, and condemned cells and annex to the Kuching Jail.

There was a large increase in the works schedule of the Second Division. One Senior Service and four Junior Service quarters, police and warders' barracks, a dispensary at Betong, oil store at Simanggang, jetty and wharf at Saratok, and new concrete drains in Betong and Spaoh were constructed during the year.

In Sibü the two Senior Service quarters started in 1948 were finished, and building started on two more, of which one had been completed by the end of the year. Work was also in progress on fourteen Junior Service quarters in Sibü and seven elsewhere in the Third Division. A maternity ward and an isolation ward were added to the Sibü Hospital, dispensaries were built at Belaga, Binatang and Sarikei, a new Land and Survey office block was constructed in Sibü, and police barracks were completed at Sibü and Sarikei.

The Fourth Division suffered extensive damage from enemy and allied action during the war, and it will be some time before the acute shortage of quarters, office buildings and godowns is completely relieved. Two Senior Service quarters in Miri were completed during the year and a third was nearly finished. Sixteen Junior Service quarters in Miri were built and work was in progress at the end of the year on three others elsewhere in the Division. Other works include police barracks in Miri and Lutong, a police station at Lutong, a customs godown in Miri and reconstruction of the Bintulu wharf.

In the Fifth Division a Senior Service bungalow was reconstructed at Limbang and a Junior Service bungalow built at Sundar. A police block at Lawas was completed, and work was in progress on a second block.

The shortage of technical staff was no less acute than in the preceding post-war years. One civil engineer joined the Department on first appointment in February, but two senior engineers were on leave for much of the year, and towards the end it was necessary to second an officer to Brunei as State Engineer. Three technical officers are, however, expected to arrive early in 1950.

CHAPTER 11.

Communications.

Water.

The rivers and sea afford the principal means of communication. Steamship services ply between Kuching and coastal ports and also serve Sibü and other Rejang River ports. In addition, numerous powered small craft, mainly Chinese-owned, carry passengers and cargo up and down the various rivers. Smaller boats, often driven by outboard motors, make their way far into the interior.

The normal services between Singapore and Sarawak operated by the Sarawak Steamship Company and the Straits Steamship Company were maintained throughout the year. These include direct sailings from Singapore to Kuching, to Sibü and to Miri and North Borneo ports.

The Sarawak Steamship Company's local coastal services connect Kuching with Sibü and with Bintulu, Miri and Marudi (Baram). A Government vessel has maintained a fairly regular monthly service between Kuching and the Fifth Division, with calls at intermediate coastal ports, including Brunei. In addition to the above, coastal trade and communications were maintained fairly regularly by locally-owned small craft between Kuching and the main coastal ports.

446 vessels cleared Miri for foreign ports during the year, with a nett tonnage of 1,826,326; 436 of these were oil tankers. There was an increase in the number of ships entering the Rejang River to load logs, the number amounting to 24, with a nett tonnage of 55,902.

A Royal Navy survey vessel, *H.M.S. Dampier*, landed a party during the year at the mouth of the Sadong River to carry out a hydrographic survey.

There were a few minor casualties to shipping and two vessels became total losses, one at the entrance to the Sarawak River and the other some way downstream of Kuching, where she struck a rock at low tide.

Air.

Regular air communication between Singapore, Kuching and Labuan was maintained by Sunderland flying boats of Transport Command, Royal Air Force, using the Sarawak River at Pending, until June, 1949. This service was then replaced by one operated by Malayan Airways, Ltd., with Dakota aircraft. Temporary extensions to the old runway were put in hand, and by the end of August a runway of 1,191 yards was made available. In July the service was increased to two schedules weekly in each direction. Throughout the period of operation through Kuching, Malayan Airways, Ltd., have landed 350 passengers, uplifted 347 and carried 544 in transit.

Navigational and approach aids have been put into operation. International Aeradio, Ltd., have undertaken, on a three-year contractual basis, the development and operation of these facilities to cover Kuching airport and aerial navigation over Sarawak territory.

The new airport, for construction of which a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was approved in 1948, is six miles from Kuching and about a mile to the north of the existing landing ground. Progress in its construction was disappointing owing to unusually heavy rainfall and unreliable equipment. Late in December some new equipment was acquired, and by the end of the year good progress had been made, despite delays in obtaining spare parts for machinery and other materials. There will be an all-weather asphalt macadam-surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide, with grass-surfaced safety verges of 75 yards wide on either side, and a grass-surfaced overrun of 200 yards at each end. There will also be an asphalt macadam taxiway to an apron of similar construction, adjacent to which the airport building is situated. The building, which provides for control tower, signals room, meteorological office, waiting and refreshment room, customs, immigration and health offices, was started late in the year.

The grass-surfaced landing ground at Lutong near Miri has been maintained by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., who began to operate private amphibian aircraft during the year. The runway does not possess the requisite safety verges, and it cannot therefore be used by ordinary commercial services save in emergency.

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Kayans and Kenyahs hauling boat up the Bakun Rapids, Balui River.
Photograph by I. A. N. Urquhart.

Photograph by Hedda Morrison.

Bamboo bridge at Fa Brayong in the Upper Trusan.



Railways.

Until 1933 a metre-gauge railway, carrying passengers and freight between Kuching and ten miles to the south, was operated by the Public Works Department. The Government continued to use the railway until the Japanese occupation for the transportation of crushed stone to Kuching from the 7th Mile, where the Colony's only quarries are situated.

On resumption of the Civil Administration in 1946, the three steam locomotives were found to be useless for further service and the track was in very bad condition. During 1949 a diesel locomotive arrived and nine of the old steel open trucks were put in running order. The line was cleared as far as the 7th Mile, bomb damage made good and damaged sleepers replaced. It is now possible to bring equipment by rail to the new airport and to bring back stone from the quarries to Kuching.

Roads and Vehicles.

There has never been an extensive road system in the Colony. The main centres of population are not connected by roads, and freight and passenger communications between them have always been dependent on river and sea transport.

With the exception of the Kuching district, unsurfaced earth roads are the general rule. These connect the outlying rubber gardens and agricultural districts with the various centres of population. Light motor vehicles are used on these roads where possible, but their use is of necessity restricted, and upkeep is frequently heavy.

The trunk road from Kuching to Simanggang, approved in 1928, had prior to the war been carried only as far as Serian, 40 miles from Kuching, and metalling and surfacing were never completed beyond the 10th Mile. The road, which supplied an important food-growing area during the occupation, was found on the liberation to be in an impassable condition, and all equipment was missing. Throughout 1946 work was carried out to re-establish it, and since then reconstruction and remetalling have been continued. In 1949 the section from the 10th to the 12th Mile was reconstructed and completely resurfaced, while from the 30th to the 32nd Mile a sound base course was laid and topped with a water-bound macadam surface.

The approximate mileage of roads for the whole Colony is 459, classified as follows:—

Bituminous macadam and concrete surface, all-weather roads	...	...	68 miles
Water-bound macadam and rough metalled surface	...	...	84 „
Unmetalled roads suitable for motor traffic under good weather conditions	...	...	112 „
Unmetalled pathways and cycle roads	...	...	195 „
Total			459 „

In addition there are some 250 miles of footpaths.

General maintenance work, reconditioning and resurfacing of roads have been carried out during the year in various parts of the Colony. A grant of \$51,294 from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund has been obtained for the reconditioning of 35 bridges on the Upper Sarawak, and 28 of these had been completely rebuilt by the end of the year. The pathway and bridges from Serian to Tebakang in the First Division (\$31,068) and from Betong to Lidong in the Second Division (\$59,605, including a timber jetty), both financed from the same source, were completed in 1949. Construction of the earth surface road of $9\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Limbang to Brunei was also completed during the year, together with a ferry driven by outboard engine.

The extension of road communications has been given much consideration and plans have been prepared for the construction of new highways as a means of developing the economic resources of Sarawak.

Improvement continues in the supply of new motor vehicles, both private and commercial. Some trucks and jeeps taken over from the War Department are still being maintained by the Public Works Department, but they are unsatisfactory now and most of them will have to be replaced within the next two years. Certain new machinery, including caterpillar tractors and bulldozers, were received by the Public Works Department during the year. There is still great difficulty in obtaining replacement parts for these and other mechanical equipment.

Posts and Telecommunications.

There are post offices at all administrative centres, and wireless telegraph stations at the more important centres and in isolated stations. Where possible, outlying districts are linked by line telephone to the nearest administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

There were 37 post offices in operation during the year. The Royal Air Force Sunderland service continued to carry the air mails until its place was taken in June by Malayan Airways, Ltd.

The rehabilitation of the Miri wireless station was completed in January, and in the following month the Tatau station was reopened, bringing the total number of wireless telegraph stations to 20. The external traffic handled during the year amounted to 803,724 words despatched and 625,722 words received. The internal traffic amounted to 1,432,280 words in Government telegrams and 551,728 in commercial telegrams. International Aeradio, Ltd., took over communication with aircraft and the transmission of night meteorological telegrams to Singapore in December.

A small telephone exchange was installed at Limbang in January, and a new telephone line from Simanggang to Betong in the Second Division, financed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds, was completed in June. A new submarine cable connecting Pending and Goebilt on the Sarawak River was received and laid in March. There are now approximately 617 miles of cable and 1,840 miles of open wire in use. A line from Lawas, through Trusan, to Sundar, in the Fifth Division, was under construction at the end of the year; this will replace the pre-war line. 150 new telephone instruments were received during the year and were used to replace old instruments.

CHAPTER 12.

Science and Arts.

The Museum.

The idea of establishing a Museum was first conceived in 1878. "Arms, boats, cloths, woods, horns and skulls of deer, and other animals, old fashioned gold work, old china or pottery, paddles, minerals, fibres, oil, carvings, ornaments and the relics of any superstition, either in wood or stone" were mentioned as a guide to the type of collection required. In the ensuing years some collections were made, but it was not until the end of 1886, when H. Brooke-Low's collection was purchased, that the establishment of a Museum was vigorously pursued. It was opened in a temporary building over the market place in 1886, and the present Museum, begun in 1889, was opened in 1891. It has since been added to, improved and renovated, the last important building operations taking place in 1940.

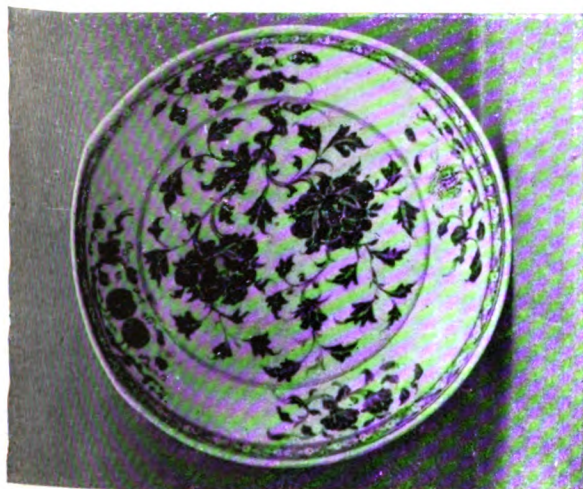
It is fortunate that throughout the greater part of the Japanese occupation the Museum was under the direction of a sympathetic Japanese curator, and for that reason it was found on the re-occupation to have suffered very little damage and remarkably little looting. A number of gold ornaments were recovered with the assistance of the Commander of the Australian Military Forces, and the Museum was opened to the public within a few days after the relief of Kuching.

The building is divided into two floors. On the ground floor are the zoological collections and on the upper floor the ethnological collections. Other buildings, near the main building, contain extensive collections of fish, snakes, crustaceans and other forms of animal life preserved in spirit; scientific reference collections of bird and mammal skins, archaeological collections and reference books; and the public library. There are also valuable botanical collections.

A section for live animals, which began in a small way in 1948, was extended during the year to include a large cage for orang-utan (maias). This has been used as a Government pound for any of these animals which have been confiscated, for the taking or keeping of an orang-utan without special licence is prohibited. At one time there were ten of



Kenyah head-work, Baram River.



15th century blue and white plate
from a longhouse in the interior.

Two recent Museum acquisitions.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.



A recent Museum acquisition.
A Murut war hat.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.

them on the premises. Other animals include a honey bear, two baby crocodiles and turtles in a tank, a pair of grotesque adjutant storks and a pet cockatoo. These have proved a very popular feature of the Museum grounds and visitors who have come to look at the animals have been drawn thence into the Museum.

The Museum grows yearly more popular and it is estimated that over 60,000 people visited it during the year, of whom about 40% were Malays, 40% Chinese, and the remainder Dayaks and occasional Europeans.

Expeditions.

During the year the Curator of the Museum made another visit to the Kelabit country, covering a considerably wider area than in 1948. The main objects of this expedition were to collect certain large mammals not hitherto exhibited in the Museum and to take photographs of the lesser-known tribes. A pair of leopards and a pair of honey bears, both with young, were collected, and the Museum now lacks only sambhur and barking deer and rhinoceros to complete its large mammal exhibits. More than a thousand photographs were taken, from the Murut country behind Lawas, through the Kelabit area to the land of the Kayans and Kenyahs of the Baram.

Archaeology.

Special attention has been paid during the year to archaeology, a subject hitherto neglected in Sarawak.

Trial excavations at Santubong and Bau in the First Division have produced much interesting material. There appears to have been a considerable early settlement at Santubong, working iron on a very large scale, while at Bau the only evidence so far known of a Bronze Age in Borneo has been found in the shape of a bronze axe. It is hoped to conduct detailed excavation of these sites in the coming year.

In connection with archaeological work, the collection of neolithic stone implements has been continued, and about 100 additional specimens have been obtained. At the end of the year an accidental contact produced an entirely new type of stone implement, in Kuching, in the possession of a Malay, and since then sixteen of these massive, hard, black stone axes and chisels have been collected. This new

material suggests that all the current theories of the Stone Age in this part of the world may have to be revised.

Several beautiful pieces of old pottery and porcelain were added to the existing collection during the year, including what appears to be a T'ang saucer, found at Saratok in the Second Division, and a beautiful Sung celadon cup found at Santubong. There is now sufficient material to form a special ceramic gallery in the Museum.

Native Arts and Crafts.

Most of the native peoples do *rotan* work, principally for making sleeping mats and for decorative use in the house. Many other types of mat are also made by them for their own industrial purposes.

Weaving is practised mainly by the Sea Dayaks who, using their own jungle dyes, make women's skirts and *kain pua*, often used for curtains. Before the war there was extensive weaving of *sarongs* by the Malays and Melanaus, but this industry is now moribund owing to the loss or damage caused to the looms during the Japanese occupation and to the difficulty of obtaining cotton.

The finest types of boat are made by the Malays and Melanaus, and the Melanau paddle, with its distinctive design, is well known. Fishing nets too are made by the coastal people, mainly with imported twine, and fish traps of various types.

Basket-work is done principally by the Melanaus, and in Matu a very fine small hat (*s'raong*) is made of a kind of rush, coloured with local dyes, and adorned with sequins. In Bintulu and Igan a larger kind of coloured hat is made. The Land Dayaks make large baskets (*basong*), which they carry on their backs; they are of *rotan*, with an inner lining of bark, and a deer-hide top.

The agricultural knife (*parang*) is made by the interior peoples, but the principal manufacturers are the Chinese and the Malohs from across the border, and the best ones are imported from the Batang Kayan in the United States of Indonesia. The Punans are the chief makers of blowpipes.

Metal-work handles for *parangs* are made by the local tribes. The Sea Dayaks, Kayans and Muruts do a certain amount of carving in horn, from which they make such articles as hair-combs and handles for *parangs* and walking-sticks.

The Berawans of the Tinjar produce somewhat crude wood carvings for table-legs and bottle-stoppers, and the Melanaus carve crude idols and boat ornaments from soft-woods, chiefly the *plai* (*Alstonia spp.*). Both Melanaus and Sea Dayaks carve wooden figures of dragon type to place above their graves.

Coloured bead-work of a high standard is done by the Kayans and Kenyahs. It is used for dress ornaments and for the decoration of hats and tobacco and betel-nut boxes.

Goldsmiths and silversmiths are to be found almost entirely among the Chinese in the towns, though some Malohs also do this work.

There is very little pottery manufacture, but a Chinese factory near Kuching is producing some quite promising glazed ware.

The native musical instruments are mostly wind instruments made from gourds. The Malays, however, make a stringed instrument, the *gambus*, and the Kayans and Kenyahs a similar instrument called the *sapeh*. Both resemble the mandolin.

Tattooing is practised by some tribes of the native peoples, notably among the Sea Dayaks and the Kayans and Kenyahs, and many of the designs are striking and well executed.

The Library.

For many years there has been a public library in Kuching, but membership has been almost entirely confined to European residents. Visits have been paid during the year by a representative of the British Council, and a portion of the library has now been moved from the old library building in which it was formerly housed to another, which has been converted into a reading room. The building is too small to accommodate all the books belonging to the library as well as to provide the minimum reading room facilities, but already the reading room is proving its worth and is being increasingly used by students and schoolboys. A radiogram has been purchased and arrangements made for films to be shown and lectures given. The Curator of the Museum was responsible for the library during the year, but it was hoped that in 1950 it would be taken over by the British Council.

Literature.

The first issue of the *Sarawak Museum Journal* to be published since 1937 appeared in May. It contained papers on a variety of subjects by people of various races within Sarawak, and a few by scholars from outside.

Cultural Societies.

A Music Society was formed in Kuching in 1947, to further the appreciation of music among all communities, to work towards the eventual establishment of a large amateur orchestra and choir and to encourage the teaching of music in schools. Membership is at present practically confined to Europeans and Chinese. During the year the orchestra has given two small performances and has done a considerable amount of practising, but latterly practices have had to cease owing to deterioration of instruments caused by the climate and lack of funds to buy more; they will be resumed when the dry weather returns. The choir has given no performances during the year, but has been practising constantly.

During the course of the year a Kuching Art Club was formed, to stimulate an interest in, and to encourage self-expression through, the fine arts, and to provide means for artists and students to pursue their arts. Membership is at present about 25, including Europeans, Chinese, a Dayak and a Malay. The Club sponsored two exhibitions during the year, which were well attended. Sketching expeditions were a success, and preparations were in hand at the end of the year for the Club to hold its first general exhibition early in 1950.

Another flourishing association is the Floricultural Improvement Society, which was formed in Kuching in June, 1947. Membership is at present 55. Highly successful flower shows were held in both 1948 and 1949, which have undoubtedly stimulated interest in floriculture. The Society has recently been presented with the loan of a house, which it is intended to use as a club-house and nursery, and with the funds at its disposal it aims at improvement in the cultivation of orchids and other flowers.

Turtle Eggs and Edible Birds' Nests.

The edible turtles (*Chelon mydas*) nest on three islands north-west of Kuching, which are administered through the Museum. 1949 was a bad year for turtle eggs, less than a

million of which were obtained, mainly owing to continuous bad weather at sea. Nevertheless, considerable profits were handed over to the Turtle Trust, which disposes of these for charitable and religious purposes. Only the eggs may be taken, and therefore the turtle industry still flourishes in Sarawak. Previously all eggs have been collected and taken away, but during this year large numbers have been replanted and hatched in special nurseries; as a result much interesting information has been obtained about fertility and other factors.

New rules were issued during the year to regulate the collection of edible birds' nests on a basis related to the habits of the swifts, which make the nests. Experience has shown that, where the scientific facts about nesting are recognised and the dates of collection controlled accordingly, the output of nests has improved considerably, both in quality and in quantity.

PART III

CHAPTER 1.

Geography.

General description.

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

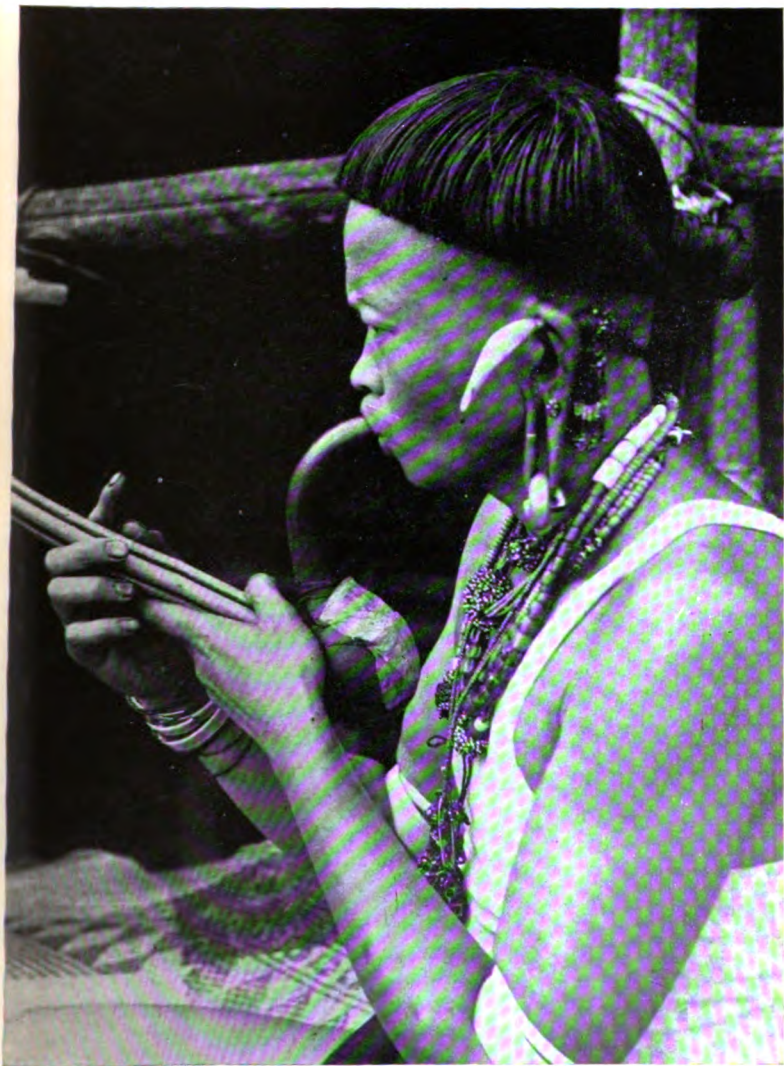
In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.



Kelabit playing on pan-pipes.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.



Balau Dayak of Kaupong Plai'i carving a ritual hornbill.

Copyright Sarawak Museum.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Geology.

Sarawak occupies an important position in the make-up of the island chains of South-East Asia, its mountain arc of ancient rocks being essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving north-west. In the extreme west of Sarawak there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-north-east in common with the Malayan regional strike.

Sarawak can be subdivided provisionally into three geological areas, reflecting the broad geographical divisions into interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of mesozoic and upper palaeozoic rocks. It appears to consist mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllite, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, quartzite and igneous intrusions.

Tertiary sediments are best exposed in the undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur and some of the beds are petroliferous. The tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both the oil and most of the coal.

Pleistocene and recent deposits form the low-lying coastal tracts; these are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of the areas are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat to unconsolidated sands and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediments inland representing river and lake accumulations.

Igneous rocks occur, and the formation of mineral deposits such as gold, antimony and mercury appears to be genetically related to the igneous activity. However, neither the igneous

intrusions nor the mineral deposits have been mapped or systematically investigated, and their exact relationships are uncertain.

Vegetation.

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers.

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological.

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the

neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 157.26 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 18.45 inches in October and the minimum 8.30 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Principal Towns.

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita, the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, large Malay *riverside kampongs* and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses, lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibu is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, and still presents a sorry aspect, though recon-

struction is taking place. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons, together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

CHAPTER 2.

History.

Owing to the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, we can do little more than conjecture as to the early history of the country now called Sarawak. Hindu figures and gold ornaments have been found, predominantly in the Sarawak River basin, but their date and provenance have not yet been satisfactorily established. The Land Dayaks of the First Division, by their abstention from the flesh of cattle and by the name of their god Jewata (Hindu *deva*), show that at one time they were brought into intimate contact with the Hindus.

A priori reasoning, coupled with the discovery of undoubtedly early Hindu remains in other parts of Borneo, suggests that Sarawak was visited, and probably settled in, by the Indian colonists, who from the early years of the Christian era went forth from their homeland to trade and settle in the countries to the south-east.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present-day total world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the Ramayana), Ptolemy's *Iabadiou*, and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that

a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Moslem states established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as the present capital, Kuching.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however, is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1861. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built upon the foundations laid by his uncle with such conspicuous success that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River, in 1885, when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded, and in 1890, when the Limbang River was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased to exist; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had

been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary reformed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

CHAPTER 3.

Administration.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of twenty-five members, fourteen of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and eleven of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the Colony and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the twenty-five members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Colony and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the Colony except with the consent of the Council Negri.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgment, His Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too unimportant to require their advice; or

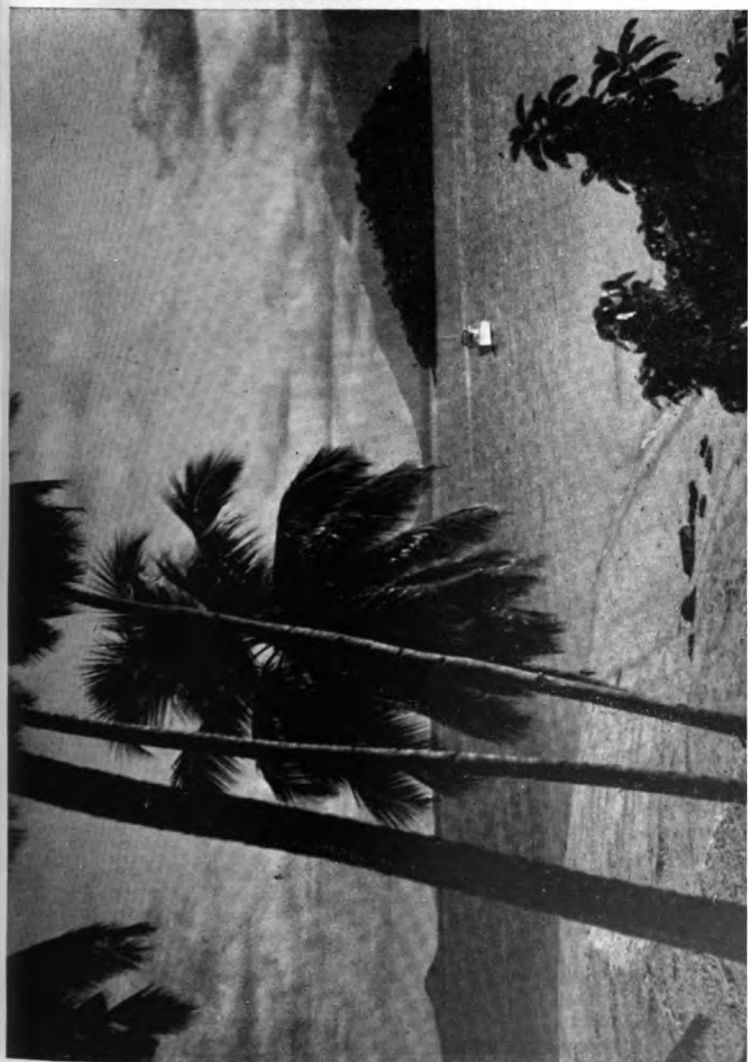
(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

The Constitution was granted to Sarawak by the Rajah in 1941 and in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers from as much routine office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war, however, the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Local Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. During the past year eleven new Authorities have been constituted, and there are now sixteen Local Authorities in all. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, and this seems inevitable at present if any progress is to be made. There are, however,



The Turtle Islands : Talang-Talang Besar looking over to Talang-Talang Kechil.
Copyright Sarawak Museum.



The Tarsier (*Tarsius spectrum*).

Copyright Sara

encouraging signs of co-operation between the various races in certain parts of the country. In Limbang Malays, Chinese, Kedayans, Muruts and Indians participate in the same Authority; a mixed Malay and Dayak Authority has been formed at Lundu in the First Division; and a mixed Malay, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak Authority was about to be launched at Serian at the end of the year. At the beginning of 1950 no less than 195,000 persons were living within the sphere of a Local Authority.

The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number of tax-payers.

While the standard of efficiency between one Authority and another has differed widely, they have in general shown ability to undertake the duties so far allotted to them. Education has been a subject in which they have shown the greatest interest, and some of them have been quick to appreciate that increased expenditure can generally be met only by increased taxation.

CHAPTER 4.

Weights and Measures.

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tahl	= $1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	= $1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	= $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	= $5333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Chhun	= $1.19/40$ inches.
10 Chhuns	= 1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	= 108 stacked cubic feet.

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Arms of the Colony of Sarawak

PART I

Review of 1950.

The year 1950 was a turbulent one for South East Asia and the Far East as a whole. It saw continued strife and political unrest in Vietnam and Malaya and unsettled conditions persisted in many territories surrounding Sarawak. Little success attended sustained efforts to establish good working relations with the People's Republic of China, and actual warfare, on an immense scale, broke out in Korea in June between the forces of the United Nations and those of North Korea. By the end of the year, the forces of the Peking Government were also heavily committed against the United Nations and in support of the original aggressor.

The war in Korea quickly brought about its economic complications for Sarawak as well as its international political repercussions. The price of rubber and other strategic raw materials, already high enough to cause a serious rise in the cost of living in Sarawak, rose rapidly during the latter half of the year. There was every appearance of universal prosperity, and revenue figures soared, but considerable hardship was felt by all those earning fixed salaries and wages.

When the Estimates for 1950 were presented, a deficit of \$2,341,171 was anticipated but largely as a result of the greatly increased revenue from the export duty on rubber, there is every reason to expect that the actual surplus will now be in the region of 14 million dollars. This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1950 falling short of the amount originally provided by approximately \$2,600,000 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$13,500,000. It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year the General Revenue Balance will amount to approximately 23 million dollars.

The aggregate value of Sarawak's external trade for 1950 was \$663,917,195 as compared with \$297,598,019 for 1949 and \$78,415,599 for the last pre-occupation year of 1940. Total exports including both crude and refined petroleum, exceeded imports by over 85 million dollars.

Mr. Anthony Foster Abell, c.m.g., was installed as Governor and Commander-in-chief in Kuching on April the

4th, and during the year he has travelled extensively throughout the country.

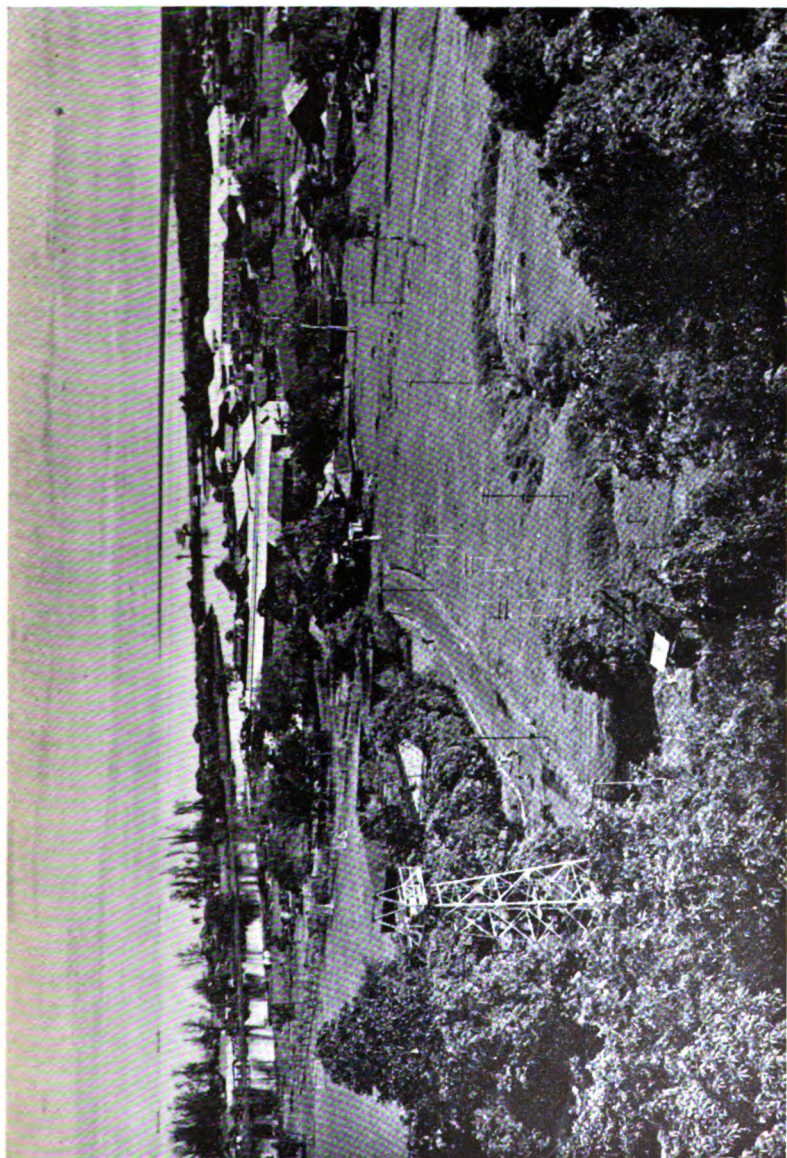
In September, Kuching's modern new Airport was officially opened, and Malayan Airways Limited are now running a thrice-weekly schedule between Singapore and Kuching. Kuching Airport has an all-weather asphalt macadam surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide, and provides full technical and navigational aids in accordance with the requirements of an International Airport.

The British Council posted a Regional Director to Sarawak and in March opened an office in Kuching. As working premises, the Government of Sarawak provided the public Reading Room in the grounds of the Sarawak Museum, and the British Council took over the administration of the Reading Room and of the general reading matter of the Sarawak Library. Books on the history, geography and peoples of Borneo and neighbouring territories were retained in the specialist reference Library of the Museum. The British Council has presented many valuable books to Sarawak during the year, including 200 volumes in Chinese, mostly translations of European classics. The Library now comprises 6000 volumes and membership has increased rapidly especially among student readers. By the end of 1950 a new Reading Room was ready to be opened in Sibu in premises lent by the Methodist Mission and equipped from British Council funds and generous local contributions.

Towards the end of the year, the Government made provision for the wide expansion of its Information Services during 1951, and plans to this end are already taking shape.

While the pattern of legislation in the Colony continued along the lines of reform and amendment characteristic of previous years, one feature of the year's legislative programme was the number of amending Ordinances concerned with public security; and in fact a majority of the sixteen amending Ordinances enacted during the year were of this nature, affecting such subjects as registration of aliens, sedition and undesirable persons.

Considerable progress and advance was made during the year in the sphere of education. The school population rose from 35,800 in 1949 to 39,423 by the end of 1950. The increase in the number of girls attending school continued to be encouraging and the number of children of the indigenous peoples who entered schools again rose sharply.



A view of Miri.



The standard of staffing in all types of schools showed a marked improvement over previous years, both in the numbers and qualifications of teachers, and the appointment of the first Woman Education Officer in 1949 enabled various improvements to be made during 1950 in the educational facilities for women and girls.

During 1950, 27 new Local Authority schools were opened, and the general enthusiasm for education shown by rural communities is a powerful factor in the gradual educational advance.

Despite the difficulty in obtaining trained staff or even staff with the basic educational qualifications necessary to profit from training, the Medical and Health Department has made important progress during the year.

The full travelling dispensary scheme of sixteen travelling units was in operation from January when the fourteen additional boats commenced work. The year's performance of these units has been very satisfactory and their regular penetration into areas previously untouched by medical services has been of great benefit. During 1949, total attendances at the two travelling dispensaries then operating numbered 36,045. The preliminary figures of total attendances at the sixteen travelling dispensaries during 1950 is 164,778.

The Agricultural Department has continued throughout the year its valuable efforts to increase the quantity and quality of Sarawak's produce and livestock.

The work at the Tarat Agricultural Station (34½ miles from Kuching on the road to Serian) is already impressive. Four years ago most of the land on the station was derelict and infested with lalang (*Imperata* spp.), but it has been shown in a striking way that it is economically possible to reclaim such land, provided that it is not too steep, and to utilise it for intensive stabilised cultivation of tree and shrub crops. The demonstration pepper plots are particularly impressive and the Department's nurseries have been a most valuable source of pepper-planting material for the country. A further important contribution to the spectacular recovery of the pepper industry has been distribution by the Department at low prices of considerable quantities of local bird and bat guano.

The Land Dayak group-farming scheme at Paya Megok some 27 miles from Kuching which was started in 1949 has

made excellent progress and is full of promise. The main project of the scheme is intensive production of padi but the establishment of a prosperous and contented rural community based on sound established systems of intensive farming is also an important aspect which has made great headway. A further aspect of the scheme is the experimental use of modern machinery both for cultivation and irrigation.

During the year a small modern mechanised rubber processing factory was established by the Department of Agriculture in an important area of smallholding rubber about 12 miles from Kuching. The object of the project is to collect latex from the small-holder and take processing and marketing entirely out of his hands. Factories of this nature should do a great deal to improve the generally poor quality of sheet exported from Sarawak and great importance is attached to this scheme.

A Staff Training School has been established near Kuching and as further staff are trained the Department's activities are gradually being extended in parts of the country other than the area around Kuching.

Timber production rose during 1950 to 79,054 tons, of which 45,486 tons were exported as compared with a total production of 70,136 tons in 1949 of which 39,835 tons were exported. Australia remained the principal importer of Sarawak timbers, followed by Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. Exports to the United Kingdom rose sharply during the year.

Development and Welfare Projects.

The table below shows the projects which were initiated or in operation during 1950, with the amounts spent on each. As the 1950 accounts have not yet been finally closed, the totals are provisional only. It should be emphasised that, though against many schemes no expenditure is shown from local funds, in a number of them, notably the Agricultural and Public Works schemes, a considerable proportion of the staff operating the projects is paid from Colony revenues. As such staff are not employed wholly on any one scheme, it is not practicable to show their salaries and allowances against the scheme. In addition, maintenance of roads constructed from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds has been borne on the Colony's revenues, but here again no sum is shown, as expenditure has been met from the ordinary maintenance votes.



An Iban woman.



*Amount spent from
initiation to end
of 1950.*

Name of Scheme.

Number.

*From
C.D. & W.
Funds.*

*From
Local
Funds.*

\$

\$

AGRICULTURE.

1. Soil Survey	...	...	D.816 & D.816A.	66,698	—
2. Improvement of Rubber Industry	...	...	D.826.	23,022	—
3. Cultivation of Cash Crops	...	...	D.951.	44,485	—
4. Mechanical Cultivation	...	...	D.973 & D.973A.	66,485	—
5. Wet Padi Cultivation—Paya Megok	...	...	D.1208 & D.1208A.	148,337	—
6. Cocoa Cultivation	...	...	D.1424.	3,902	—
7. Department of Agriculture Staff Training School	...	...	D.1519.	—	—

EDUCATION.

8. Batu Lintang Teachers Training Centre & School	...	...	D.839 & D.839A.	342,684	86,584
9. Rural Improvement School, Kanowit	D.838.	191,071	—

FISHERIES.

10. Fisheries Survey	D.837 & R.209.	16,417	—
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GEOLOGICAL.

11. Geological Survey	D.950, D.1109 & D.1109A(/).	417,761	—
12. " " "	D.1191.	—	—

MEDICAL AND HEALTH.

13. Travelling Dispensaries	...	...	D.830.	352,954	—
14. Malaria Survey	...	...	R.158, R.158A, R.158C & R.158D(").	—	—

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

15. Installation of Telecommunications Service, Kuching Airfield	D.1117.	175,765	—
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PUBLIC WORKS.

16.	Communication-Roads	...	D.1076.	373,970	—
17.	Kuching Airfield	...	D.913 & D.913A.	561,472	—
18.	Preliminary Surveys for secondary roads	...	...	—	52,995(*)
19.	Port Development	...	D.1273.	31,384	—
20.	Buildings	...	D.1430.	—	—
21.	Sibu Airfield	...	D.1542.	—	—

SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY.

22.	Sociological Research	...	R.270.	62,722	30,866
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FORESTRY.

23.	Forestry Development	...	D.1120.	27,347	—
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CO-OPERATION.

24.	Co-operative Development Plan			—	98,498
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SOCIAL WELFARE.

25.	Kuching Boys' Home	...		—	38,973
26.	Social Welfare Staff	...		—	8,010

(*) Joint scheme for North Borneo and Sarawak.

(') Joint scheme for North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei administered by North Borneo.

(/) Expenditure incurred from local funds; eligible for reimbursement from C.D. & W. Funds if subsequently included in formal approved scheme.

PART II

CHAPTER 1.

Population.

A full-scale population census was conducted during 1947. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 as disclosed by the census was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayas, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the comparative numerical importance of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of total population.</i>
European	... 691	0.1%
Malay	... 97,469	17.9%
Melanau	... 35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak	... 190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak	... 42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous	... 29,867	5.5%
Chinese	... 145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous		
Asian	... 5,119	0.9%
	<hr/> 546,385 <hr/>	<hr/> 100.0% <hr/>

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogenous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well-recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

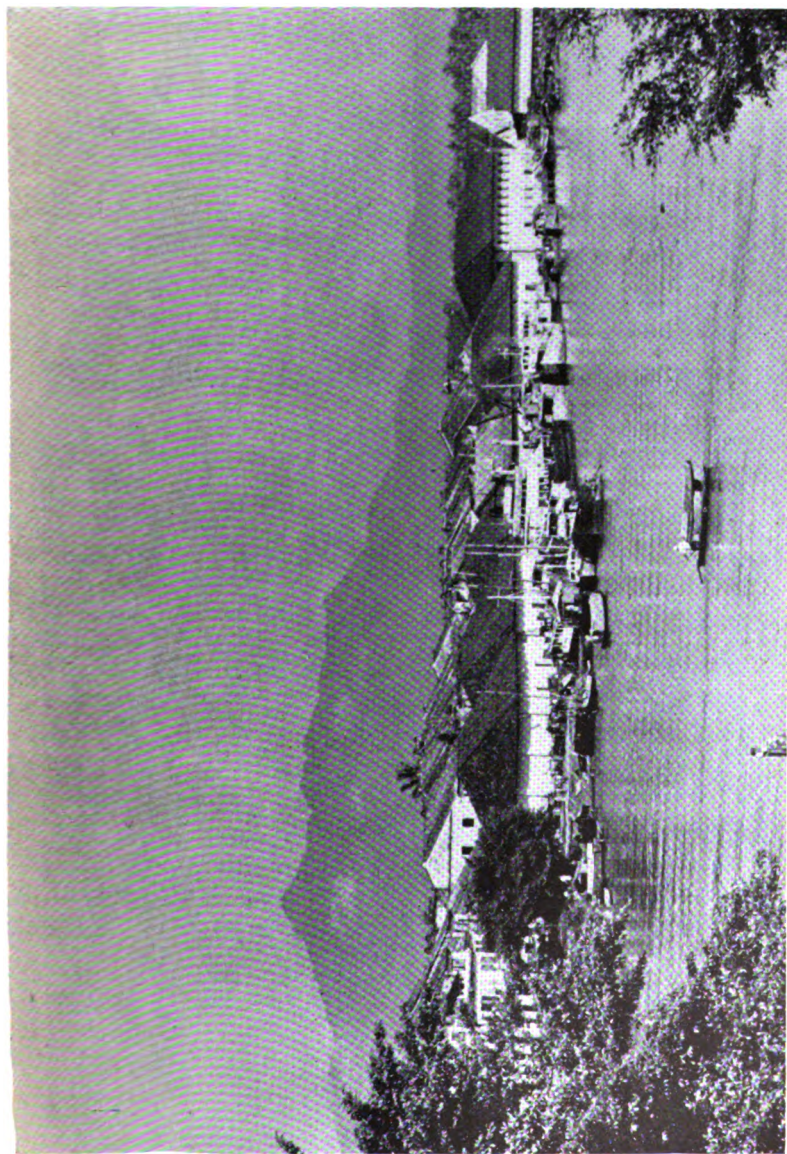
The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and the Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.

IMMIGRATION.

Control was considerably improved during 1950 owing to the increased efficiency of the Immigration Department, as a result of the appointment of an Assistant Immigration Officer and a Passport Officer in Kuching last year. The issue of immigrant landing permits for permanent entry into Sarawak



River front scene, Kuching.



was reduced to a minimum. Control of travellers by land, especially in the First Division, between Sarawak and West Borneo, continues to be a problem incapable as yet of satisfactory solution, owing to the physical impossibility of patrolling the whole border and to the ease with which illegal immigrants may, if they wish, avoid the checking posts at Serian, Bau and Lundu.

Owing to the large profits to be gained by smuggling rubber, copra and pepper out of West Borneo into Sarawak, there was a considerable increase during 1950 in the small craft trading between Indonesian and Sarawak ports. Every effort was made to control the temporary entry of merchants masquerading as crew on board these vessels.

Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri.

Migration on and from Sarawak during 1950 was as follows:—

<i>Race.</i>		<i>Immigrants.</i>	<i>Emigrants.</i>
Chinese	...	3,913	3,382
European	...	1,121	1,011
Malay	...	462	396
Sea Dayak	...	494	694
Melinau	...	1	1
Land Dayak	...	0	1
Other Indigenous	...	13	209
Other Asian	...	398	472
Total	...	3,802	6,166

There is a constant interchange of labour in the oilfields area between Miri in Sarawak and Seria in Brunei, but no reliable statistics are available. Apart from this there was no importation of recruited labour into Sarawak during 1950.

CHAPTER 2.

Occupations, Wages, Labour Organisation, Co-operative Societies.

By far the largest part of the population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing primitive methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting rice. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of this 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus who are a coastal tribe are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupations of the Chinese; they are to a large extent rubber planters. There are several Chinese-owned saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The trade of the country is, except for a few European importing firms, in the hands of the Chinese.

The only large single employer of labour is the Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., which employs a total of approximately 2,000 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled workmen. Sago production, logging, dock work and the distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of children.

No entirely reliable statistics of wage rates and hours of work are available; hours of work are generally speaking long. Wages are lower than in Malaya, but, taking the cost of living into consideration, do not seem to compare unfavourably.

Conditions of labour improved slightly during 1950, and there were no disputes of importance. The number of persons employed directly and indirectly in the timber trade increased

with the general expansion of the trade. The tremendous rise in the price of rubber brought little increase in the wages of tappers on estates, the reported rates at the end of the year being about \$1.55 a day whereas contract tappers on small holdings could earn up to \$200 a month. Wages in the sago industry dropped to \$2.00 a day. Basic rates in the Oilfields remained unchanged at \$2.26, \$3.02 and \$4.64 for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour, but the cost of living allowance was raised. The cost of living generally has risen greatly throughout the country during 1950.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also Protector of Labour, and District Officers are Deputy Protectors.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provide protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for the making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended during the year, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly labour returns from employers.

The Labour Conventions Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting the recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak have been drawn up for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

A new labour Code will be promulgated shortly. The number of registered Trade Unions increased during 1950 from eleven to eighteen. The largest, the Kuching Wharf Labourers' Union, with some 302 members, continued to develop satisfactorily..

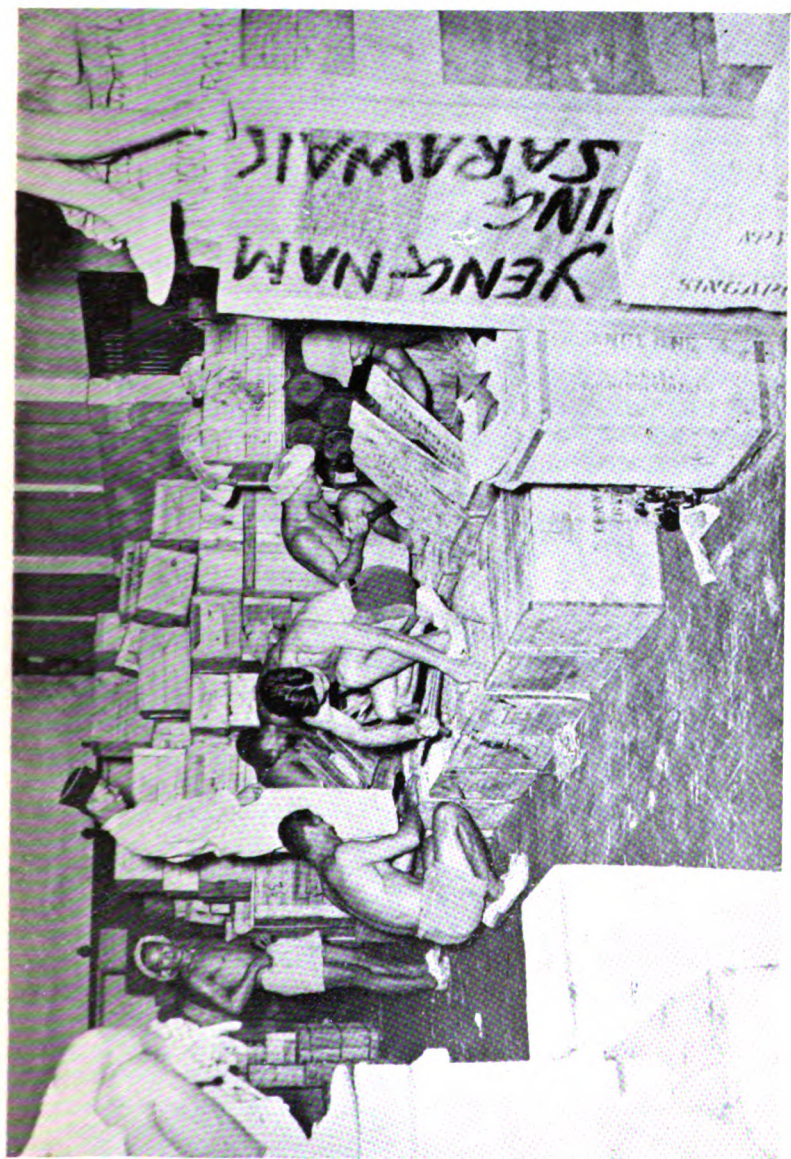
A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance came into force on the 1st April, 1950 and two agreements were made under it.

Co-operative Societies.

The Co-operative Development Department, which was opened under the name of the Co-operative Societies Department in 1949, continued to expand. Staff was increased, with emphasis being placed upon training; the school for Probationers in Kuching continued and two men passed through a course at the Ceylon School of Co-operation while one officer studied audit procedure for a short time in Malaya. Particular attention was given to the training of Societies' office-bearers in Kuching and 22 attended short courses in Kuching. The number of registered Societies rose from 24 at the end of 1949 to 63 at the end of 1950 and no Society was liquidated. The audit and supervision of registered Societies and formation of new ones laid a heavy strain upon officers of the Department, most of whom were young, insufficiently trained officers, but some welcome relief was supplied by the appointment of an Administrative Officer of the Senior Service to the post of Assistant Registrar.

The 1949 policy of establishing demonstration Co-operatives in selected areas was justified in 1950 by heavy demands in these areas for new Societies, particularly in the Saribas District. In the Kuching and Serian Districts of the First Division Societies increased from 8 to 18; in the Saribas and Kalaka Districts of the Second Division they increased from 6 to 29; and in the Oya-Dalat and Mukah Districts of the Third Division they grew from 10 to 16. Development was not undertaken in other Districts. The following table shows the Societies registered at the end of the year:—

(a) Thrift and Credit Societies of unlimited liability (known as Rural Credit Societies) ...	21
(b) Thrift and Credit Societies of unlimited liability (known as Rural Credit Societies) but saving padi only ...	2
(c) Thrift and Credit Societies of limited liability (known as Urban Thrift and Loan Societies) ...	3
(d) Thrift and Credit Societies of limited liability saving padi only ...	1
(e) Thrift Societies of limited liability (known as Rural Savings Societies) ...	16



Checking in the Customs godown, Kuching.

(f) Consumer Societies (known as Stores Societies 9 Rural, 1 Urban)	10
(g) Producers' Processing Societies (3 padi mills, 1 combined padi mill and electric lighting plant, and 1 sago mill)	5
(h) Hostel Society (a Secondary Society formed by Saribas Co-operatives)	1
(i) Other Societies (a Chinese Society of fishermen pledged to form a model village, a Chinese Sea-Transport Society, and one Chinese and one Sea Dayak Farming Society)	4

The year 1950 was one of marked progress and increasing confidence in the aims of the Department as the achievements of the earlier Societies became known and demonstrable to the public with whom they came in contact. Propaganda was continued, but it was found that the older Societies were far better advertisements than anything the Department could write or say, and now primary education in the aforementioned Districts in which the Department operates is much less necessary; the emphasis is now upon curbing enthusiasm rather than arousing it.

On the whole there was surprisingly little active opposition to Co-operation. A few Chinese merchants showed their dislike and undoubtedly influenced some Chinese peasants against it, but the Department was not seriously hampered in this respect. Among the Malays there were signs that the small successes already registered among them had almost overcome and discredited the political propaganda of the previous year. Among Government staff it seems that any scepticism that might have existed changed to friendly interest and help, and Heads of Departments and Administrative Officers did much by their assistance to spread confidence in Co-operation among the people. Particularly valuable was a visit made by His Excellency the Governor to Sungai Paku of the Saribas between 15th and 19th October mainly to inspect Co-operatives; he was able to meet and talk with members of Savings, Padi Milling and Stores Societies and of a Farming and an Electric Lighting Society.

Inflation, accompanied by a sometimes locally engineered shortage of certain consumer goods, particularly in sugar and

cigarettes, gave the Department the opportunity to encourage Societies to demonstrate the value of bulk purchase and distribution.

Salaried workers suffered severely from the effects of a rising cost of living. The Sarawak Constabulary organised its own Stores Society which began business in December, but although the Department had tried often to influence other Government employees to form their own Stores Society no progress could be made until the employees of the most important wholesalers of Kuching took a hand, and it is now reasonably certain that a Kuching Co-operative Stores Society for salaried workers will be running in 1951. The three Thrift and Loan Societies for salaried workers with headquarters in Kuching were faced with demands for loans quite outside their means to satisfy, unlike the Rural Credit Societies the members of which, being agriculturists, did not feel much need for loans.

The year opened with hopes of developing Co-operative Farming Societies, but it closed on a gloomy note with virtual cessation by the Department of all propaganda in this respect. There are two Farming Societies in existence: one Chinese, the other Sea Dayak, and both formed in 1949. During the year a number of new applications for assistance were received from groups of Malays and Sea Dayaks but in all cases it was found that land was not readily available and the Department had no option but to withdraw assistance until some practical form of rationalisation of land can be introduced by Government.

Plans for 1951 include consolidation and further development within the six Districts already mentioned, expansion into two new Districts, and exploratory work among Chinese, Malays, Melanaus and Sea Dayaks in two others. Once again emphasis must be upon training of staff; without more and better officers there can be no real progress. It is intended to send two more trainees to Ceylon to undergo the excellent course provided by the Ceylon School of Co-operation and the training of other probationers will be continued in Kuching.

Although progress can be registered for the year, it must be remembered that as yet Co-operation has only touched a very small proportion of the population of the country, and development has been effected in those areas most favourable to it. In order to establish a firm base for development and

expansion, work has been done where it is most acceptable, promises best results and offers the best field for demonstration and not necessarily where it is most needed.

Co-operation has been favourably received by Sea Dayaks wherever it has been possible to operate among them, but so far it has been brought to only the best-educated and progressive. There has been further success among the Melanaus of the Oya-Dalat and Mukah Districts, but it is very slow work requiring much patience and very few of them have yet awakened (as the Sea Dayaks of the Saribas and Kalaka Districts have done) to the economic revolution we are endeavouring to foster. Some progress has been made in a few places among Malays but it is heartbreaking work to arouse many of them from their lethargy and fatalistic acceptance of debt, or to teach them the elements of thrift, self-help and mutual aid. Lack of educated Land Dayaks on the staff is proving an almost insuperable barrier to progress among these people. Although the way of living and behaviour of the smaller groups such as Kayan, Kenyah and Kedayan gives promise of success, it will be some years before work can be commenced among them, even if suitable supervisors can be found in time. Lastly, the very important Chinese agriculturists remain suspicious; at present most of them do not consciously feel the need for Co-operation because of the boom.

CHAPTER 3.

Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1949, the original Estimates for 1950 and the revised Estimates based on information available as at 31st January, 1951, are given below :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expen- diture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1949	14,673,512	16,684,326	—	2,010,814
Original Estimates, 1950	15,930,739	18,271,910	—	2,341,171
Revised Estimates, 1950	29,425,218	15,487,289	13,937,929	—

When the Estimates for 1950 were presented a deficit of \$2,341,171 was anticipated.

The accounts for the year 1950 have not yet been closed but there is every reason to expect that the actual surplus will be in the region of approximately \$14,000,000.

This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1950 falling short of the amount originally provided by approximately \$2,600,000 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$13,500,000.

It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year 1950 the General Revenue Balance amounted to approximately \$23,000,000.

Revenue.

The main heads of Revenue are as follows :—

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i>
	\$	\$	\$
Customs	9,744,382.75	9,200,000	22,635,792
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	993,727.25	1,176,281	1,644,117
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	585,059.48	838,433	530,788
Departmental Reimbursements	938,943.56	922,799	895,372

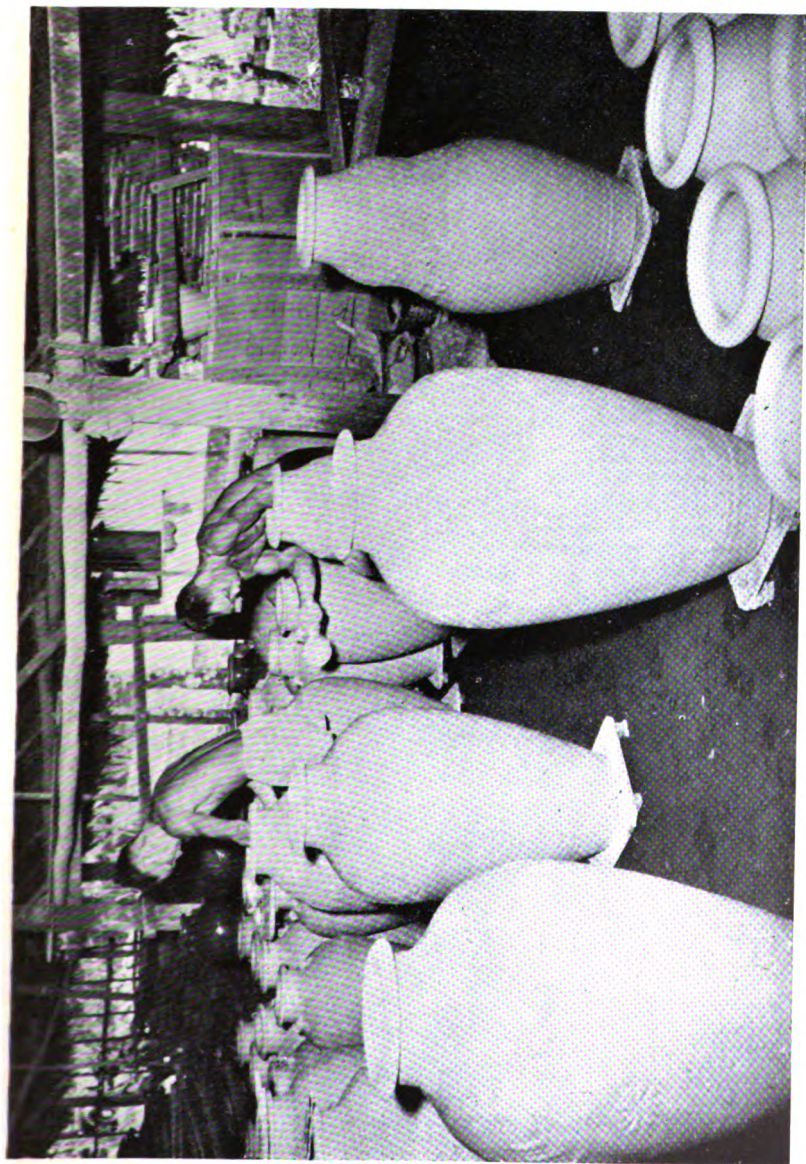
<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Land	381,326.16	383,150	568,339
Forest	349,814.81	317,000	387,408
Posts and Telegraphs ...	422,163.53	372,700	759,162
Marine	140,023.70	87,000	157,792
Municipal (Outstations) ...	252,333.40	250,244	284,152
Municipal (Kuching) ..	222,584.78	260,500	248,700
Revenue from Government			
Property	168,099.43	345,962	94,003
Land Sales	34,380.70	38,170	122,352
Interest	412,091.90	1,241,500	979,394
Rehabilitation Loans ...	28,580.14	247,000	52,124
Income Tax	—	250,000	65,723
	14,673,511.59	15,930,739	29,425,218
Colonial Development and Welfare Grants ...	676,150.03	1,221,885	2,185,573
TOTAL ...	15,349,661.62	17,152,624	31,610,791

Expenditure.

The heads of Expenditure are as follows:—

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Governor	93,595.32	107,932	104,359
H.H. the Rajah's Dependants	125,216.13	129,800	95,249
Administration	329,707.80	366,765	343,478
Agriculture	215,968.84	339,418	271,774
Attorney-General	—	27,745	12,002
Audit	34,842.60	26,513	25,433
Chinese Affairs	63,104.45	60,755	61,643
Clerical Service	517,707.64	798,695	756,116
Constabulary	1,137,995.78	1,308,621	1,050,723
Co-operation	33,325.32	51,485	40,052
Defence and Internal Security	8,363.75	150,000	140,911
Education	328,994.81	532,318	408,323
Forest	143,713.10	160,303	152,303
Judicial	—	90,437	82,059
Kuching Boys' Home ...	13,858.63	19,611	13,745
Landing Grounds ..	10,233.88	27,400	16,527
Land and Survey	493,595.53	634,459	602,592

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1949.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1950 (Revised January, 1951).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Local Treasuries ...	202,433.00	230,376	232,219
Marine ...	546,416.46	528,178	657,916
Medical and Health ...	1,166,057.31	1,517,510	1,436,200
Miscellaneous Services ...	3,722,205.71	2,264,241	2,306,852
Municipal—Kuching ...	262,271.76	347,360	
Municipal—1st Division (Bau) ...	4,774.08	6,455	
Municipal—3rd Division (Sibu, Sarikei & Bintang)	73,401.49	92,790	481,617
Municipal—4th Division (Miri) ...	51,003.41	67,790	
Museum and Library ...	52,430.23	47,691	47,365
Native Affairs ...	200,247.12	237,590	211,561
National Registration ...	138,750.08	131,260	145,151
Pension & Provident Fund ...	984,110.89	932,000	352,143
Posts and Telegraphs ...	460,970.47	511,843	501,220
Printing ...	246,585.92	196,025	179,678
Prisons ...	130,109.41	225,476	174,803
Public Works Department ..	1,117,857.61	885,971	
Public Works Recurrent ...	397,166.99	577,910	3,320,681
Public Works Extraordinary	2,045,963.86	2,926,373	
R. & D. O. 1st Division ...	119,446.24	146,968	
R. & D. O. 2nd Division ...	73,814.86	97,297	
R. & D. O. 3rd Division ...	117,885.77	157,380	432,408
R. & D. O. 4th Division ...	56,561.17	63,298	
R. & D. O. 5th Division ...	28,076.39	30,530	
Secretariat ..	184,659.65	159,191	155,926
Special Constabulary ...	19,608.21	64,800	17,090
Survey of Ships ...	2,604.97	3,953	2,384
Trade and Customs ...	280,571.89	301,399	324,175
Treasury ..	173,938.95	105,050	92,004
Sociological Research ...	18,692.24	14,503	13,153
Rehabilitation Loans ..	147,950.00	500,000	150,110
War Damage Claims Com- mission—Assessment ...	14,871.25	68,445	75,344
Legal ...	90,093.52	—	—
Marine Police ...	—	—	—
Loss on Sale of Investment ...	2,571.43	—	—
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	16,684,325.92	18,271,910	15,487,289
	1,260,829.45	1,221,885	1,369,525
TOTAL ..	17,945,155.37	19,493,795	16,856,814



Chinese jar-makers, Kuching.

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT
31st DECEMBER, 1949.

LIABILITIES.

<i>Previous Year.</i>				
\$			\$	\$
	Deposits—			
	Security Deposits	...	703,589.37	
1,504,157.61	Miscellaneous	...	778,107.13	
4,541,387.23				1,481,696.50
451,803.67	Special Funds	...	...	5,461,945.96
—	Current Accounts	...	...	298,389.28
—	Joint Colonial Fund	...	...	2,125,714.29
1,207,046.07	Trading Account—Food			
	Control Allotments	...	...	—
	London	...	251.80	
5,833.89	Local	...	6,155.91	
				6,407.71
53,496.33	Suspense	...	...	32,690.10
	General Revenue Balance—			
	Balance as at 1.1.1949	...	13,213,178.60	
	Less Surplus & Deficit a/c.		2,595,493.75	
			10,617,684.85	
	Less Depreciation of Invest-			
	ments	...	683,126.18	
13,213,178.60	Balance as at 31.12.49	...	...	9,934,558.67
20,976,903.31				19,341,402.51

ASSETS.

<i>Previous Year.</i>				
\$			\$	\$
4,032,612.74	Cash	...	...	2,915,936.02
755,970.36	Fixed Deposits with Chartered			
	Bank, Kuching	...	...	650,128.69
2,185,714.29	Joint Colonial Fund	...	...	—
12,106,562.67	Investments	...	...	12,612,150.77
664,840.35	Investments, Special Funds	...	...	635,630.22
—	Trading Account—Food			
	Control	...	...	873,730.13
849,802.32	Advances	...	...	790,843.68
5,645.00	Imprests	...	...	5,616.21
35,684.10	Current Account	...	...	584,990.69
13,058.21	Stock—Agriculture	...	...	18,156.85
233,813.94	Drafts and Remittances	...	...	190,393.30
82,377.91	Remittances between Chests	...	...	63,825.95
10,821.42	Suspense	...	...	—
20,976,903.31				19,341,402.51

Note :—

A sum of \$611,544.15 is due by His Majesty's Government in respect of under issues on the following Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes :—

Scheme No. D. 804	...	\$ 2,211.42
„ „ D. 816	...	5,174.84
„ „ D. 954	...	1,007.10
„ „ D. 973	...	1,507.80
„ „ D. 968	...	219.44
„ „ D. 944	...	4,624.68
„ „ D. 838	...	15,115.44
„ „ D. 950	...	23,032.90
„ „ D. 1109	...	161,745.83
„ „ D. 913	...	141,287.47
„ „ D. 830	...	139,840.54
„ „ R. 270	...	12,882.62
„ „ D. 1076	...	80,893.61
„ „ D. 1208	...	14,487.47
„ „ D. 837 and R. 203	...	7,512.99
		<hr/> \$611,544.15 <hr/>

Taxation.

The main source of income is Customs Import and Export Duties which comprise approximately three-fourths of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1950 is \$22,635,792.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, flour, salt, tea, milk, coffee, tinned meats, soaps, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, fireworks, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue producing items in 1950 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$4,757,004, on petroleum products \$424,330, on textiles and wearing apparels \$1,369,501, on sugar \$396,027 and on alcoholic liquors \$707,604; and Export Duties on rubber \$12,709,097, on sago \$1,001,847, on pepper \$514,787, on copra \$241,041 and on jelutong \$184,902.

EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES.

(a) *Excise.*

An Excise Ordinance was enacted at the November 1950 meeting of the Council Negri and this will come into force on the 1st January, 1951, prior to which date fees based on excise procedure are charged on the manufacture of matches and certain wines within the Colony.

(b) *Stamp Duties.*

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17). The principal duties are :—

Affidavits or declarations in writing	\$ 2.50
Agreements or contracts ...	.50
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ...	10.00
Bill of Exchange (including cheques on banks):—	
(i) payable on demand or at sight ...	.06
(ii) of any other kind ...	10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed	5.00
Receipts ...	6 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00

A stamp duty of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a bank, a document previously free of duty, was introduced in 1948.

The structure of the public accounts is such that it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from each individual source.

Door and Head Tax.

The system of Malay *hasil* (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. Such collections, where Native Treasuries have been instituted, are, as an administrative measure, paid over to the Authorities in full. The “door” tax is equivalent to what is called “hut” tax in other territories, the “door” being the apartment in a Dayak longhouse occupied by a single family. “Head tax” is applicable mainly to Malays

and Melanaus, and is levied only on adult males. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and similar taxes.

On the 31st December, 1949, the Income Tax Ordinance came into force, but at present tax is charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in the Colony or elsewhere. There should be levied and paid for each year of assessment, upon the chargeable income of every company, tax at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income thereof.

A Trades Licensing Ordinance was enacted at the November, 1949, meeting of the Council Negri and this came into force on the 1st January, 1950. This Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees to be paid by the different categories of business are as follows:—

1. A licence to carry on the business of a
wholesale trader—

For the principal or only place of business	... ..	\$ 400
For each subsidiary place of business ...		200

Provided that, if the person who carries on the business deals or trades only in goods manufactured, made or treated by him at the place of such business, the fee shall be—

For the principal or only place of business	... ..	100
For each subsidiary place of business ...		50
2. A licence to carry on the business of a retail
trader including importation from places
beyond the Colony—

For the principal or only place of business or where the business is not carried on at any defined premises ...		150
For each subsidiary place of business ...		50



A burial jar of a Sea Dayak on the Saratok River, Second Division. The jar is an old one, probably 17th century.

Provided that no person shall be deemed to be an importer who carries on a business as a handicraftsman and only imports raw materials for the purposes of his trade or business and not for resale of such raw materials.

- | | | | | |
|----|--|-----|-----|-------|
| 3. | A licence to carry on the business of a retail trader not including importation from places beyond the Colony, for each place of business | ... | ... | 50 |
| 4. | A licence to carry on the business of a banker (including any branches or agencies) | | | 2,500 |
| 5. | (1) A licence to carry on the business of shipping or air transport in the Colony | ... | ... | 400 |
| | (2) A licence to carry on the business of shipping in respect of vessels engaged only in the carriage coastwise or in the waterways of the Colony of passengers or cargo | | | 50 |
| | (3) A licence to carry on the business of an agent of a shipping or air transport business which has no place of business in the Colony including any sub-agency in the Colony | ... | ... | 200 |
| | For two or more such agencies | | ... | 400 |
| 6. | A licence to carry on the business of a contractor at any place in the Colony | ... | | 400 |
- Provided that where the total number of persons employed on the contract work at any one time does not exceed 20 then only half the above fee shall be charged.
- | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 7. | A licence to carry on the business of letting taxis or passenger or goods service vehicles for hire, or of a passenger omnibus service— | | | |
| | If three or more vehicles are used in the business | ... | ... | 100 |
| | If two or less vehicles are used in the business | ... | ... | 50 |
| 8. | A licence to carry on the business of a remittance shop | ... | ... | 300 |

8A. A licence to carry on the business of a barber or men's hairdresser, in respect of each chair	...	...	10
Provided that the maximum annual fee for such licence shall be fifty dollars in respect of any one business.			
9. A licence to carry on any other business	...	...	50
10. Duplicate licences	...	...	2
11. Any transfer of a licence	...	...	2

Estate Duties.

The rates of Estate Duties were amended in 1948. Some relief on small estates was granted whilst a heavier duty was imposed on the larger estates.

The revised rates came into force on 1st September, 1948, and are as follows:—

Where the value of the estate exceeds:—

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$ 3,000	...	1 per cent
3,000	„	1½
5,000	„	2½
7,500	„	3½
10,000	„	5
20,000	„	7½
40,000	„	10
70,000	„	15
Over 100,000	...	20

Entertainment Tax.

Entertainment tax is at present charged at the following rates:—

Where the payment including the amount of the duty—	
does not exceed 50 cents	... 10 per cent. of such payment.
exceeds 50 cents	... 20 per cent. of such payment.

CHAPTER 4.

Currency and Banking.

Currency.

Since the conclusion of the war Malayan currency has been issued in Sarawak, in the first instance to provide a common currency for the three British Borneo territories during the Military Administration. No new issue of Sarawak currency has been made since the re-occupation and none is intended. The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak:—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

Sarawak currency is gradually being withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. So far as is known, there is no British North Borneo currency in circulation in Sarawak. The remaining Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

At the 31st December, 1950, there was \$32,210,956 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$1,797,442 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$1,160,844 in notes and \$636,598 in coins. There was an increase of \$18,707,100 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$732,499 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$732,290 in notes and \$209 in coins, was withdrawn during the same period.

Banking.

Banking facilities in Sarawak are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, in Kuching, Sibu and Miri and the Oversea Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching.

In addition there are three small Chinese Trading banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank and the Wah Tat Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1950 was 3,385 as compared with 3,068 at the end of 1949. The amount of credit to depositors was \$1,269,542 as against \$982,753 in 1949. During the year deposits amounted to \$738,087 which exceeded withdrawals by \$269,949.

CHAPTER 5.

Commerce.

There are now several firms specializing in the extraction and export of timber; there is a company confining its activities to the production of Cutch, and most important of all there is of course the oil company (Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.).

Apart from these, the firms engaged in the commerce of the Colony may be said, to fall, roughly speaking, into two main groups:

- (i) The Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) The Chinese Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses, i.e., the leading European firms, import either from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries, Proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. These firms hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their Principals, (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese Merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large Rubber Estates that exist and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "Production" e.g., in the Timber business.

The Chinese Merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Some indeed act as agency houses, but only on a smaller scale than do the European firms.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the Colony direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources, i.e., upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally necessitate transshipment in Singapore). Most of the things imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting,

grading, bulking and re-export, although shipments of sago and rubber to other countries are now becoming more frequent.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and other distant sources is almost entirely left to the few European firms, but generally speaking the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the Chinese Merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are of course, some shops which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash (and some of these are Indian shops), but many are usually to be found that combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display; sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, blachan and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associate Chinese firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the Chinese firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas, of which jelutong is employed in the manufacture of chewing gum, and such piquant items as dragons' blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives, for which they cannot and do not provide themselves, are very few, but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the Dayaks, who may set their hearts on any object outside their natural partiality for gold and silver ornament. The other things they venerate vary with the local tribal custom, and amongst these are a certain type of earthenware jar, large glazed and unlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shot-guns are universally esteemed for utility and prestige.

Very little weaving is now done, so that imported cloth has become a virtual necessity. Apart from this, in some places, far from the towns, very little more than salt and oils for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great is the variety of goods



Young Malay fisherman.



normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Certain Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of sago flour for export, and this is in the nature of a specialized trade.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price that the crop, when ultimately produced, would fetch, and during the Japanese occupation it was abandoned altogether, but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of "grub-staking", and they are again considering it worth their while to do so.

External Trade.

The aggregate value of the external trade of the Colony for the year 1950 was \$663,917,195 as compared with \$297,598,019 for the year 1949, and \$78,415,599 for the pre-occupation year 1940.

This total is comprised as follows:—

	<i>1950</i>
Total Exports	... \$374,586,491
Total Imports	... 289,330,704
Favourable Trade Balance	... <u>\$ 85,255,787</u>

Trade Balance.

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$85,255,787 does not show a very clear picture in view of the fact that in the total exports of \$374,586,491 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$230,308,089.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports in 1950 being \$199,078,712. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleums are included in the total value of exports.

Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the State of Brunei and in Sarawak itself, the favourable trade balance for 1950 would be \$54,026,410. This compares with \$2,672,340 for 1949, and is made up as follows:—

Total Exports	... \$144,278,402
Total Imports	... 90,251,992
	<u>\$ 54,026,410</u>

While the figure of \$85,255,787 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$54,026,410 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into account the production of oil in Sarawak.

Imports.

The declared value of imports for 1950 was \$289,330,704 made up as follows:—

			as compared with:	
			1949.	1940.
			\$	\$
Foodstuffs	...	...	32,372,183	19,414,554
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	...	...	15,077,527	5,342,172
Petroleum, crude and refined	...	...	202,348,152	62,615,909
Tobacco	...	...	6,534,368	5,003,112
Manufactured goods and sundries	...	...	32,998,474	17,593,713
			<u>\$289,330,704</u>	<u>\$32,818,879</u>

Throughout the year the only commodities imported on Government procurement were rice and sugar. Flour reverted to commercial procurement in August. Butter, meats, fats and cheese though still on quota were procured through normal commercial channels. Bazaar trade was brisk with the supply of consumer goods adequate. The cost of almost all imported commodities rose steadily, and to a small extent offset the substantial increase in the purchasing power of the populace brought about by the improvement in the price of rubber, the Colony's main industry.

The cost of certain basic foodstuffs, rice, flour and salt showed a reduction compared with that in 1949, while sugar and milk increased. The respective declared values were:—

			1950.	1949.
			\$	\$
Rice	...	...	404.29 per ton	468.12 per ton
Flour	...	...	400.46	465.84
Sugar	...	...	514.87	449.52
Salt	...	...	52.02	56.11
Milk	...	...	1,295.62	1,269.90

Compared with 1940 values the 1950 values show an advance of:—

Rice	...	4.24 times
Flour	...	3.33 ..
Sugar	...	3.15 ..
Salt	...	1.07 ..
Milk	...	2.05 ..



Some Dayak women near Saratok with their various baskets, winnowing fans and hats used in bringing in, drying and winnowing padi into rice.



Exports.

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1950, \$374,586,491 was composed as under:—

as compared with :

	1950.	1949.	1940.
	\$	\$	\$
Petroleum, crude and refined	230,308,089	135,117,901	11,446,818
Rubber	113,941,617	31,545,400	26,167,140
Sago Flour	9,277,842	4,699,629	2,184,997
Pepper	4,107,166	2,025,997	362,569
Jelutong	1,795,932	1,182,665	775,209
Various guttas	265,903	247,414	145,930
Damar	501,366	416,544	88,688
Copra	2,651,451	1,676,702	70,629
Sundries	11,737,125	10,716,307	4,528,427
	<u>\$374,586,491</u>	<u>\$187,628,559</u>	<u>\$45,770,407</u>

As compared with 1949, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 3,312,823 tons to 4,055,954 tons. It is not possible for the reason explained in paragraph 2 to assess the true value these exports have to the Colony's economy. Crude oil actually won in the Colony amounted to 56,601 long tons as against 56,752 long tons in 1949.

Exports of rubber amounting to 55,475 tons in 1950 compared with 38,901 tons for 1949, but as shown above, the increase in their value is even more marked. Although by far the largest proportion of these exports was shipped with Singapore as the only declared destination, it is of interest to observe that two next principal destinations on through bills of lading were France and the United States of America.

The increased value of exports of sago flour compared with that for 1949 reflected not only higher prices but also increased quantities. Exports in 1949 of 27,081 tons compared with 38,243 tons in 1950, and of these 19,269 tons and 16,291 tons were shipped on through bills of lading to the United Kingdom and India respectively. 1,440 tons were destined for the United States of America. Bills of lading covered shipments to 16 different countries, under which only 267 tons were exported to the Singapore market as compared with 8,450 tons in 1949 and 38,432 tons in 1948.

Exports of timber, sawn and as logs continued their encouraging trend, being for 1950 44,133 tons valued at \$2,839,725 as against 36,607 tons valued at \$2,018,896 for 1949.

Exports of copra of 4,230 tons in 1950 compared with 3,418 tons in 1949. Pressed jelutong increased from 1,265 tons in 1949 to 1,544 tons in 1950, and other commodities exported showing substantial increases as between the same two years—albeit forming a very small proportion of the Colony's total exports—were hides, skins and matches.

As has previously been noted, Tanjong Mani at the mouth of the Rejang River continued to increase in importance as a shipping centre. In 1949 24 vessels of a total of 55,902 nett registered tons called there to load: in 1950 26 vessels called of 80,701 nett tons. The nett registered tonnage of foreign shipping using Kuching increased from 67,145 in 1949, to 74,868 in 1950.

Customs Revenue.

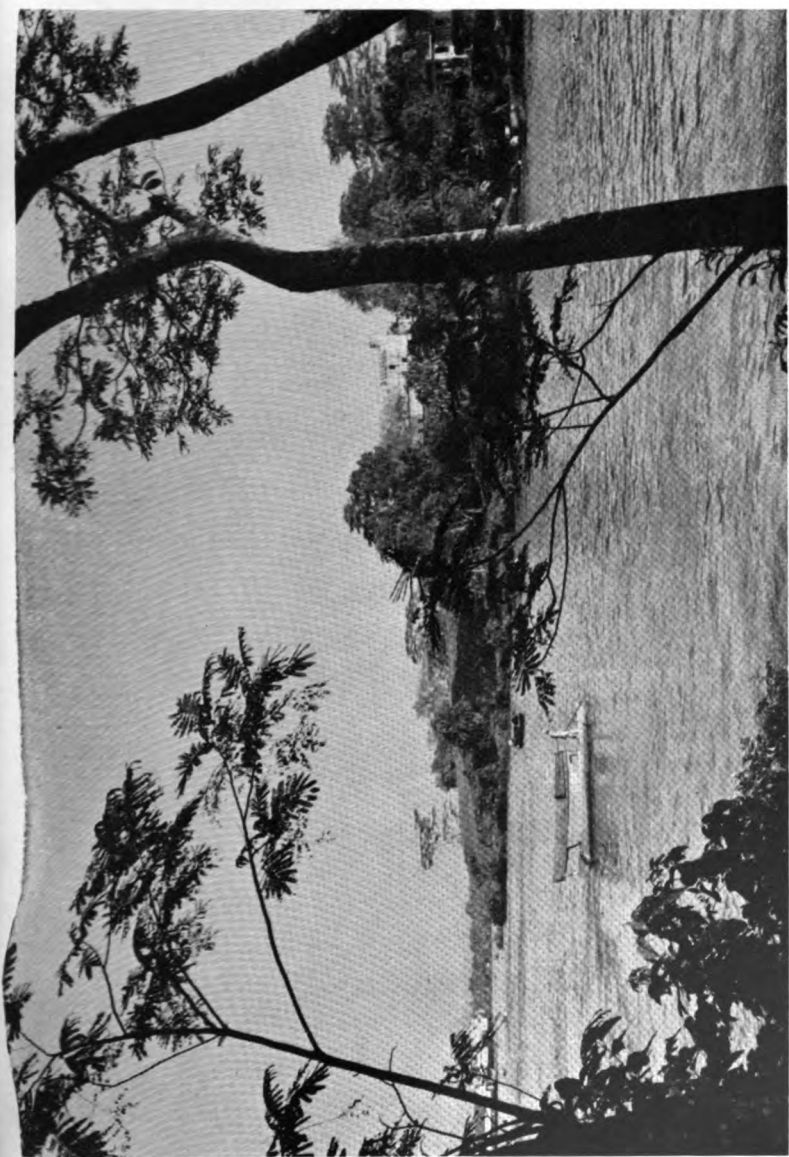
The total Customs revenue for 1950 amounted to \$23,635,522 comprised as follows:—

				as compared with:	
				1949.	1940.
Import Duty	...	...	\$ 8,869,679	\$5,879,267	\$2,252,028
Export Duty	...	...	14,765,843	3,721,082	1,278,254
<u>\$23,635,522</u>				<u>\$9,600,349</u>	<u>\$3,530,282</u>

This remarkable rise in revenue resulted mainly from the sustained higher price of the Colony's principal export-rubber.

Tariffs.

In August a "ceiling" of \$18 per pikul was set on the export duty on rubber but with the continued advance in the price of the commodity the limit was raised in December to \$25 per pikul but has since been removed and the duty is again charged according to the ad valorem sliding scale.



Fort Margherita, Kuching.



The Import tariff was also amended during the year raising the rate of duty on imported cigars, cigarettes and other manufactured tobacco; and lowering it on sugar. At the same time the previously imposed duties on canned and preserved meats, fish, fruit and vegetables, and on flour were abolished. Furniture was separately scheduled on the tariff (having previously been included with timber), and a new item was also added—Refrigerators.

Excise.

An Excise Ordinance was entered during the year, to come into force on 1st January, 1951. Meanwhile revenue continued to be collected on excise lines from 2 factories operating under the Monopolies Ordinance. These were the Raga Chemical Works at Pending, which produced a wine fortified by the addition of alcohol, and the Sarawak Match Factory. Revenue collected from the former amounted to \$30,570 and from the latter \$90,900.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

	1950.	1949.	1940.
Total Exports	\$374,586,491	\$187,628,559	\$45,770,407
Total Imports	289,330,704	109,969,460	32,645,192
	<u>\$663,917,195</u>	<u>\$297,598,029</u>	<u>\$78,415,599</u>

Machinery	...	...	...	3,893,000	...	...
Milk, Condensed, Sterilized, etc.	...	...	...	2,245,307	Tons	1,081
Motor Lorries, Cars and Accessories	...	...	...	756,304		541,752
Oil—Lubricating, Kerosene, Benzine, Crude and Liquid Fuel	...	...	...	201,892,454	Tons	3,303,163
Petroleum Gas—Natural	...	...	...	455,698	Cu. feet	1,663,616,044
Rice	...	...	...	7,815,269	Tons	11,517
Salt	...	...	...	774,647	"	3,416
Soap	...	...	...	522,162		305,192
Stationery and Books	...	...	...	710,074		475,100
Sugar	...	...	...	3,361,059	Tons	3,003,278
Tea	...	...	...	376,880	"	60
Twine and Threads	...	...	...	1,215,667		159,859
Tobacco in tins, Cigars and Cigarettes	...	...	...	6,273,458	Lbs.	800,855
Vegetables, Fresh, Salted and Preserved	...	...	...	941,791	Tons	784,581
Wines and Spirits	...	...	...	1,611,245	Gals.	718
						122,793
						489,340
						719,717

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

	1950.			1949.		
	Quantity.	Value.		Quantity.	Value.	
Betelnuts (Areanuts) .. Tons	16	\$ 2,303	Tons	23	\$ 3,113	
Beeswax ...	1	1,665	"	2	2,880	
Birdsnests, Edible ...	10½	51,258	"	17	61,493	
Canes ...		72,915			62,024	
Copra ..	4,230	2,651,451	"	3,418	1,676,702	
Damar ..	1,508	501,366	"	1,980	416,544	
Fish—Fresh, Dried and Salted ..	100	153,195	"	214	268,196	
Gutta—Jangkar ...	47	51,260	"	26	17,038	
Jelutong, Raw ...	253	158,033	"	399	189,730	
Jelutong, Refined ...	456	833,663	"	463	640,124	
Jelutong, Pressed ...	835	804,235	"	406	352,811	
Percha ...	43	214,643	"	50	230,186	
Nipah Sugar ...	398	118,905	"	153	35,028	
Oil—Vegetable ...	1	1,213	"	1	1,021	
Crude Petroleum ...	2,356,997	136,855,336	"	1,768,681	72,114,965	
Refined Petroleum ...	1,698,957	93,452,753	"	1,544,142	62,002,936	
Pepper ...	282	4,107,166	"	321	2,025,997	
Prawns, Dried ...	86	224,211	"	77	171,104	
Rattans ...	1,046	207,599	"	1,774	289,926	
Rubber, Plantation ...	55,475	113,941,617	"	38,901	31,545,400	
Sago Flour ...	38,243	9,277,842	"	27,082	4,699,629	
Timber ...	44,133	2,839,725	"	36,607	2,018,896	
Cutch ...	35,369	1,153,354	Cwts.	42,860	1,480,257	

CHAPTER 6.

Production.

AGRICULTURE.

It is estimated that an area of about 13,000 square miles is used for agricultural purposes. This includes land occupied by tree crops and land used for hill padi cultivation. A recent survey has shown that approximately 5,600 square miles of the delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamp unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes. There are, however, considerable areas of good swamp padi land in the delta regions. There are small areas of good well-drained soils suitable for tree and shrub crops, particularly in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, but on the whole the soils are very poor judged by normal standards. Favourable climatic conditions do, however, to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils.

The average annual rainfall is 160 inches. In the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February. In the north-eastern half of the country the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is far more uniform. Atmospheric humidity is generally very high. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will be about 5 hours' bright sunshine a day.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small native farmers are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the development of the country's agriculture by the native farmer working a mixed system of farming rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that a measure of control over the farmer will be necessary if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of what are now generally termed "group-farming" units.

The chief agricultural products of Sarawak are as follows :—

Padi.

This is the main crop. Before the war Sarawak had to import an annual average of 33,000 tons of rice to supplement her own production. Imports have continued since the war on quotas allocated by the International Emergency Food Committee, the figures for the last four years being :—

1947	...	19,272 metric tons,
1948	...	17,525 metric tons,
1949	...	11,517 metric tons.
1950	...	25,000 metric tons. approx.

Undoubtedly a great incentive to farmers to plant padi has been given by the Government's padi purchase scheme, inaugurated at the end of 1946, when it was announced that Government was prepared to purchase local grown padi and rice at fixed minimum prices of 55 cents per *gantang* of padi and \$1.30 per *gantang* of rice. No rice was in fact purchased, but the padi purchasing scheme proved so successful that it has been decided to continue it in each succeeding year. It has gone some way towards ensuring the cultivator an adequate return for his labour, besides helping to reduce the Colony's dependence on imported rice. Purchases of padi during the four years in which the scheme has been in operation were :—

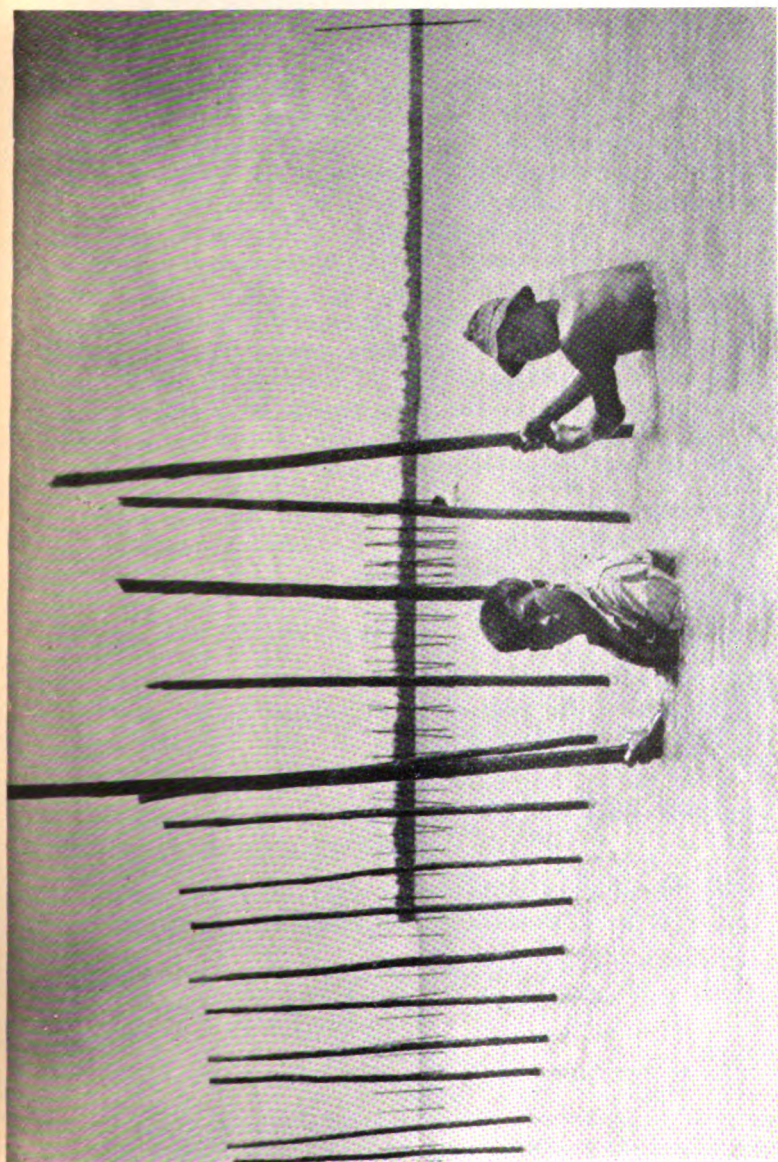
1947	55,085 piculs	(roughly 1970 tons of rice)
1948	72,074 piculs	(roughly 2570 tons of rice)
1949	102,333 piculs	(roughly 3180 tons of rice)
1950	21,484 piculs	(roughly 830 tons of rice)

Owing to poor communications and shortage of technical staff, it is not at present possible to make an accurate estimate of the acreage covered by padi, but there is no doubt that Sarawak as a whole is approaching self-sufficiency in rice, its staple foodstuff. A destructive method of shifting hill/dry padi cultivation, which is bringing very serious problems in its train, accounts for a considerable part of the padi produced; powers to control this practice are now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1949. Swamp/wet padi is cultivated but the methods employed are usually primitive and yields are often low. The 1949-50 crop was generally not good owing to unfavourable weather and exceptionally severe pest damage particularly from rats. The 1950-51 acreage is less than in the previous year as high rubber prices have seriously distracted attention from padi cultivation.

Rubber.—Rubber is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important export. It was estimated in 1941 that there are approximately 240,000 acres under rubber of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by native holdings each less than 5 acres in extent. It is possible that the acreage increased during the war. Most of the acreage is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition which must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. There has been a phenomenal rise in rubber prices during the year and the industry is now extremely prosperous. There is now considerable interest in planting and replanting of rubber with high yielding material and the demand is being met as far as possible by the Department of Agriculture with suitable budwood and clonal seed. In order to guard against rubber being planted on land needed for swamp/wet padi and suitable for that purpose it has again become necessary to control planting by reimposition of certain sections of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance which had been suspended in 1946-

Sago.

It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres used for sago cultivation, the major part being concentrated in the in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division and mainly worked by Melanaus. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available but, taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young, immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. For a time after the liberation production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the plantations were being overworked as a result; the quality of the product too was often very poor. Production is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting. Since the passing of the Sago flour (Control of Exports) Ordinance, 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; on the whole the trade has co-operated extremely well in the matter, and there has been a major improvement in the general quality of sago flour exported from Sarawak.



Bugis fishermen preparing traps, Rejang delta. The Bugis originated in the Celebes and are staunch Mohammedans. There is a large settlement of them in the Rejang.

Pepper.

This was an important export product before the war and the quality was generally good, but most of the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation. Considerable replanting has taken place recently and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines is now equal to the pre-war total. A recent estimate suggests that nearly 900,000 vines are now being cultivated and that the number is still increasing no doubt due to the excellent prices being obtained for the product and the good market prospects. Small quantities of pepper were exported in 1959 and it is expected that in 1951 exports will be back to pre-war level. All the vines are planted in small gardens, mostly less than half an acre in extent and often very much smaller. Unfortunately most of the pepper in Sarawak is still cultivated under a most pernicious system of shifting cultivation but it is hoped that it will be possible to minimise the worst effects with powers available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950.

Coconuts are mainly a smallholder's crop, largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage occupied by the crop is estimated at 21,000 acres, though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra and coconut oil are exported.

Tuba Root (derris) has been cultivated in the past, but production and export are now negligible. Planting is being encouraged as there is a good export demand, but there is still a shortage of suitable planting material.

Gambier was an important product many years ago, but production is now negligible.

Pineapples of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced in small quantities on drained peat soils.

Tobacco. Small areas are planted by the natives for their own use. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

Coffee is cultivated to a small extent round the villages.

Cocoa is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak but some observation plots recently established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise particularly on the better types of land. About 500 seedlings raised in quarantine in

Malaya from clean selected seed obtained from the Gold Coast were recently imported by the Department of Agriculture and are being used as the basis of a seed production station.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are produced near the towns by Chinese market gardeners.

So little information with regard to agricultural conditions in Sarawak had been recorded before the war that a great deal of the work of the Department of Agriculture since it came into being in its present form in 1946 has consisted of preliminary surveys and investigational work. But it has now been possible to start some developmental work, in spite of acute shortage of trained and experienced technical staff. Financial assistance for this work is being received from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, and indeed without this assistance progress would be impossible. In present circumstances it is inevitable that the main projects should be near Kuching, but as the staff situation improves it is hoped to start similar projects in other Divisions.

The work at the Tarat Agricultural Station (34½ miles from Kuching on the road to Serian) is already impressive. Four years ago most of the land on the station was derelict and infested with lalang (*Imperata* spp.), but it has been shown in a striking way that it is economically possible to reclaim such land, provided that it is not too steep, and to utilise it for intensive stabilised cultivation of tree and shrub crops. The demonstration pepper plots are particularly impressive and the Department's nurseries have been a most valuable source of pepper-planting material for the country. A further important contribution to the spectacular recovery of the pepper industry has been the distribution by the Department at low prices of considerable quantities of local bird and bat guano.

The Land Dayak group-farming project at Paya Megok some 27 miles from Kuching and which was started in 1949 has made excellent progress and is full of promise. The main project of the scheme is intensive production of padi but the establishment of a prosperous and contented rural community based on sound stabilised systems of intensive farming is also an important aspect that has made impressive headway. An important aspect of the scheme is the experimental use of modern machinery both for cultivation and irrigation.

During the year a small modern mechanised rubber processing factory was established by the Department of Agriculture in an important area of smallholding rubber about 12 miles from Kuching. The object of the project is to collect latex from the smallholder and take processing and marketing entirely out of his hands. Factories of this nature should do a great deal to improve the generally poor quality of sheet exported from Sarawak and great importance is attached to this scheme.

A Staff Training School has been established near Kuching and as further staff are trained the Department's activities are gradually being extended in other parts of the country besides the First Division.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Animal husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Bullocks are rarely seen. Some herds of buffaloes estimated at a total of 5,600 head are kept in the Fifth Division and are used for meat and for cultivating the wet padi fields, but in other parts of the country the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of dairy cows are kept near the towns by Indians. Chinese smallholders keep pigs and poultry for their own use and for the supply of pork and eggs to local markets. Goats are kept to a small extent by the Malays. Poultry for home use are seen in the villages of both Malays and Dayaks. Pigs are always to be found in and around Dayak villages. Schemes for the development of animal husbandry in Sarawak with assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund are being prepared. Strict control is now exercised over the import of livestock into Sarawak under the Animal Health Ordinance and recently legislation has been introduced having as its object control of slaughter of cows and female buffaloes suitable for breeding.

FORESTRY.

The Forest Department staff now consists of 113 officers of all ranks, including 4 members of the Colonial Forest Service. The administration is organised on a Divisional basis, with an Assistant Conservator, who is directly responsible to the Conservator, in charge. The Assistant Conservator in charge of the Fourth Division at present also supervises forestry in the State of Brunei.

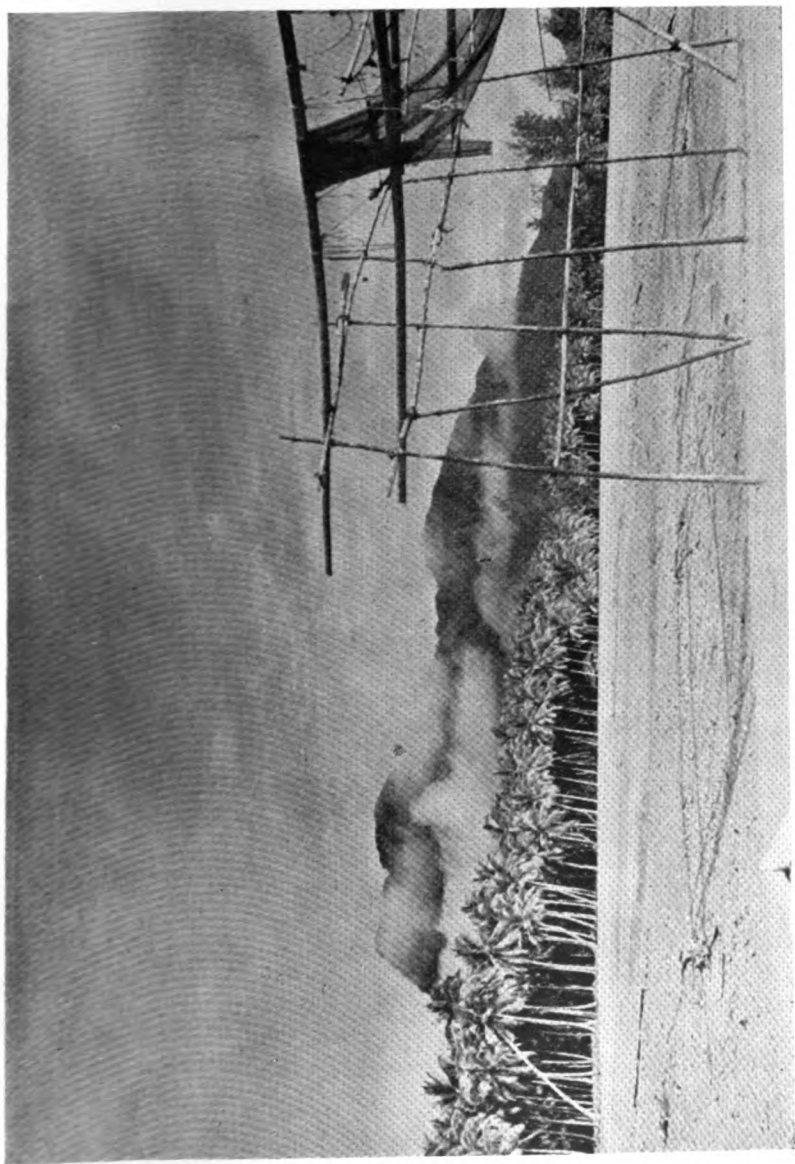
The forests of the Colony are classed as tropical evergreen rain forest and comprise three principal types :—

Mangrove forest, which occurs mainly in the deltas of the Sarawak and Rejang rivers, and which is chiefly of value as a producer of firewood, charcoal and cutch. In this type also are included extensive stretches of the stemless palm *nipah* (*Nipa fruticans*) which provides thatch and alcohol. The total area of mangrove and *nipah* forests in the Colony is estimated at approximately 460 square miles.

Peat-swamp forest, which occurs along the greater part of the coast and often extends inland for more than 50 miles. The peat-swamp forests cover nearly 5,800 square miles or about 12 per cent. of the total land area. Until recent years they were chiefly valued as a source of *getah jelutong*, the principal ingredient of the chewing gum. The post-war boom in the timber export trade, and particularly the popularity of *ramin* (*Gonystylus* spp.) in the United Kingdom and Australia, has transformed them into the most important timber-producing areas of the Colony.

Inland forest. Although large areas have been devastated by shifting cultivation, approximately 27,800 square miles or 59 per cent. of the total land area still carries natural or very old secondary forest of this type. This forest contains a wealth of species dominated by the family Dipterocarpaceae, the most important timbers being *meranti* (*Shorea* spp.), *kapur* (*Dryobalanops* spp.), *keruing* (*Dipterocarpus* spp.) and *belian* (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*). In addition to timber, forest of this type yields canes, damar, wild rubbers and gutta percha and, at intervals of about four years, large quantities of illipe nuts, which contain a valuable vegetable oil.

Timber production is mainly in the hands of British, Australian and Chinese firms. In 1950, the total output of timber was 79,054 tons, of which 45,846 tons were exported, as compared with similar totals of 70,136 and 39,835 tons in 1949. Australia remained the principal importer, taking 22,763 tons, and was followed by Hongkong with 9,506 tons; but it is noteworthy that exports to the United Kingdom rose from 94 tons in 1949 to 7,238 tons in 1950, mainly as a result of the relaxation of hardwood control in that country.



The fishing village of Buntal near Kuching.

A certain quantity of timber was also sent to Singapore, various Bornean ports, New Zealand, South Africa and Ceylon. The main source of this timber was the Rejang, which contains one of the few harbours in the country capable of accommodating ocean-going vessels and which has a large hinterland carrying vast areas of rich forest. Owing, however, to dwindling supplies, the further export of the celebrated hardwood *belian* was prohibited towards the end of the year.

Apart from its general duty of the supervision of forest industries, the main task of the Forest Department at present is the selection and reservation of land to be kept under forests in perpetuity, both for the permanent production of timber and other products and for the prevention of erosion and floods. Hitherto, owing to shortage of staff and other reasons, only slow progress has been made, but the work has now been considerably facilitated by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. By the end of 1950, a total of 3,442 square miles had been reserved, but this figure will be more than doubled by the inclusion of other areas now in process of constitution.

Work on the intensive exploration of the Rejang delta, begun in 1949 and carried out in co-operation with other Departments, was completed during the year, and has made possible a complete land utilization plan for an area of some 1,500 square miles. Of this area, approximately 760 square miles will be kept permanently under forest of the peat-swamp and mangrove types. Further large areas to the north of this area are now to be examined.

Forestry research is at present concerned mainly with experimental plantations, with a view to the reclamation of impoverished soils and the rehabilitation of forests degraded by shifting cultivation. Both *mahogany* (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and *ru ronang* (*Casuarina sumatrana*) show considerable promise of success. The latter species is not a timber tree but yields firewood of a very high quality and may therefore be of great value in densely populated localities. It is still considered too early, however, to embark on any large-scale projects of this nature.

For the first time since 1941 it was found possible to devote some time to the training of the subordinate field staff, and a short, practical course in surveying, silviculture and

the identification of trees and timbers was held at Kuching. Eleven Foresters and Forest Guards from various parts of the Colony attended this course, and ten of them succeeded in passing the examinations.

The following statement gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1949-50.

		1949.	1950.
Revenue	...	\$349,813	\$389,090
Expenditure	...	\$143,713	\$141,258
Surplus	...	\$206,100	\$247,832

The expenditure for 1950 quoted above excludes \$27,347 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Export duties on forest produce, collected by the Customs Department, amounted to \$254,714, as compared with \$213,590 in 1949. The chief contributors towards this total were *getah jelutong*, *gutta percha* and *damar*.

MINERAL RESOURCES.

The mineral resources of Sarawak comprise oil, gold, coal, antimony, mercury, diamonds, limestone used for lime manufacture and possibly suitable for cement, clay used for bricks and tiles and some types of pottery, building stone, and phosphate. Small deposits of silver, lead, copper, gypsum, and iron ore have been recorded, sapphires are known to have been found and salt is worked by native methods in the interior; aluminium ore was discovered during 1949. The oil-fields of northeast Sarawak and the gold in the west are the mineral deposits that have received the closest examination, but, in common with the other minerals, a large amount of work remains to be carried out before their potentialities are known. Mineral occurrences, particularly of gold, coal, antimony and mercury, are widely reported.

Although little has been published about Sarawak's minerals, they have received attention in the past. Between 1850 and 1900 there appears to have been an energetic search for deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury, and gold. Investigations were made by individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the Government. Unfortunately virtually none of the information resulting from the work was published and records available are insufficient for

assessing the full extent of the investigations. Minerals have, however, played an important part in Sarawak's development. From 1823, after the discovery that antimony ore had a ready market, they have figured prominently in the country's economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was generally the most important mineral produced and, in the early days, often Sarawak's leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879 inclusive, but after 1887 output declined and became negligible ten years later. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export. The relationship of Sarawak's mineral products to the country's total exports is shown in the table below :

PAST SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Value of Sarawak Produce Exported.	Value of Mineral Exports.	Percentage of Mineral exports to exports of Sarawak Produce.	Mineral Royalties paid to the Sarawak Government.	REMARKS. Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first.
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1888	1,322,325	118,915	09	8,889	Antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold.
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	Coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver.
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	Gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver.
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	Gold, oil, coal.
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	Oil.
1938	23,244,666	12,842,134	54	387,636	Oil, gold, silver.
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	67,320*	Oil, gold, antimony.

All values given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s. 4d. sterling since 1906.

N.A.=not available.

*Estimated oil royalty and mining rents and fees; most of the oil exported during 1948 was produced in Brunei.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1950.

The mineral production in Sarawak during 1950 consisted of oil, being worked on a large scale by modern methods, gold obtained from six Chinese mines, phosphate, coal, and antimony ore. Bricks, tiles, and lime were being produced, and stone was being quarried. The present Government policy is to try to encourage mining, and prospecting licences were granted in West Sarawak for bauxite to The British Aluminium Company Limited and for gold to Anglo-Oriental (Malaya) Limited. Both companies had mining engineers prospecting during the year. Mining leases totalled 24 and covered 3,930 acres of land; no new areas were alienated for mining in 1950. This was the only land alienated for mining, excluding oil rights which are held by Sarawak Oilfields Limited. The mineral output during 1950 is shown below.

SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1950.

MINERAL	PRODUCTION.	REMARKS.
Oil	414,196 U.S. barrels	Exports from Sarawak totalled 4,055,954 long tons valued at \$230,308,089 and included gasoline, diesel, kerosene and crude oil. Most of this output was produced from Seria in Brunei. Sarawak Royalty on oil totalled \$103,501.
Gold	1,440 fine ounces	Produced by six mines and valued at \$117,580. Royalty and rents paid totalled \$12,981.
Coal	22 long tons	Worked by Logging and Lumber Limited, Bintulu.
Antimony ore	4 long tons	Obtained by Ban Lee Gold Mining Company, Bau.
Phosphate	643 long tons	Extracted from Niah Caves, Bukit Subis, Fourth Division.
Bricks and Tiles	1,506,000 bricks 50,000 tiles	Made by four concerns working in the Kuching area, and two in the Miri district. The estimated value is \$186,720.
Lime	923 long tons	Made by three companies in the Kuching area and two at Miri. The estimated value is \$100,792.
Stone	47,900 cubic yards	This stone was quarried in the First Division; only negligible quantities were obtained elsewhere in Sarawak.



Inspection of the fishing nets.

Oil continues to be by far the most important mineral product of Sarawak. At present it is won only from the Miri field close to the borders of Brunei, where it is worked by Sarawak Oilfields Limited. The search for oil, now being actively pursued over a wide area of the territory, is described below; the account is based mostly on information kindly supplied by the oil company. Geological reconnaissance mapping by oil company geologists has been extensive; in the Tatau district the Tatau, Anap, and Kakus rivers, and their tributaries have been explored, while further inland the Rajang river has been examined between Pelagus and Belaga. In the Likau-Kidurong area, semi-detailed mapping has been in progress. Over much of this country exposures are so poor that surface mapping has to be supplemented by holes sunk by hand-augers. Work of this type has been done mainly in the hills between the Balingian and Penipah rivers. Where insufficient information has been obtained by these methods, shallow core-drilling has been carried out; such work has been in progress in the Suai-Niah area, and, to the northeast, between the Tutoh and Limbang rivers. Two seismic surveys are being made; one is an extension of work across the lower Baram river from the Seria oilfield. The second is an investigation at Bulak Setap, which lies some twenty miles south of Miri.

Indications that oil reservoirs may possibly be found at Bulak Setap and in the Subis river area have been obtained as a result of geological and geophysical investigations. These possibilities are to be tested by deep drilling and this exploratory work, consisting of two holes of about 10,000 feet in depth, will commence in 1951. The magnitude of such undertakings can be realized from the road being built by the company from the coast to Bulak Setap, through the difficult terrain of the Lambir Hills.

The gold output of 1,440 fine ounces in 1950 was obtained by six small Chinese-operated mines in the Bau district of Sarawak. The gold came partly from irregular deposits in limestone, and partly from alluvium. There is room for improvement in the handling of the ore between the workings in the limestone hills and the cyanide vats, but although crude, the milling and cyaniding of the ore appears to be reasonably efficient considering the scale of working. The peak period of production from this area was between 1899 and 1921,

when the mining was carried out by the Borneo Company Limited; between 1933 and 1939 there was a temporary increase in the output. Downstream from Bau there are extensive deposits of alluvium which may contain gold in sufficient quantity to repay mining. This possibility is being tested by Anglo-Oriental (Malaya) Limited who are boring some of the alluvial flats.

Coal is being worked on a small scale in the Bintulu area by Logging and Lumber Limited. The 1950 output of 22 tons was used for one of the company's ships, which is bringing timber to the Rejang River and had previously used wood fuel. Although the deposits contain bituminous coal, it appears unlikely at present that they can be profitably worked on a large scale.

The antimony ore output of 4 tons came from the Bau area. It was produced by Ban Lee Gold Mining Company as a by-product of their gold mining.

Phosphate production totalled 10,800 pikuls, the highest output yet obtained; it came from the deposits in the Niah Caves at Bukit Subis in the Fourth Division. These are the largest deposits yet found in the country, and are worked and marked under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. The phosphate occurs mainly as guano, which is common in a number of limestone caves throughout Sarawak. The production figure given above does not include small amounts of phosphate extracted by the Niah cave owners themselves, or the small production from caves elsewhere in Sarawak to supply local requirements. Deposits containing over 2,000 tons of guano occur at Gunong Staat south of Kuching, and small amounts have been found at Gunong Selabor, south of Serian.

Building materials produced in Sarawak comprise bricks, tiles, lime, and stone. Most of the output is obtained in the vicinity of Kuching, the most developed part of the country. A total of 990,000 bricks were produced by Chop Mong Soon, Swee Huat Seng, the Prison Department, and Ban Hin Company; this last concern also manufactured 50,000 tiles. The clay and sand used came from the valley of the Sarawak river. The lime output was 15,500 pikuls and was prepared by the above three Chinese concerns using limestone from Gunong Staat. The recorded production of stone is 47,900

cubic yards and was quarried in the First Division; only negligible quantities were worked elsewhere in the country. Most of the stone was used for road construction and repairs: it is mostly andesite porphyry from Bukit Stabar quarry, near Kuching.

The aluminium ore, discovered during 1949 in the Sematan area of west Sarawak, was prospected more completely during 1950. Other occurrences in the neighbourhood were examined by geologists of the British Aluminium Company Limited. There are indications that the occurrences are extensive, and some are of commercial grade; the search for additional deposits continues. The existence of a supply of bauxite in British territory near a suitable site for a hydro-electric scheme, such as that at Tenom in the Colony of North Borneo, is of considerable potential value. In the past it has been possible to export bauxite profitably from Bintan Island in the Riouw Archipelago and from Malaya. The Sarawak deposits will probably therefore make a useful contribution to the stability of the local economy.

CHAPTER 7.

Social Services.

Education

General and Administration.

During 1950 the senior staff of the Education Department was strengthened by the recruitment of two Temporary Education Officers "on secondment" from the United Kingdom. One of these was posted to the Teacher Training Centre to assist with the teaching of Handwork and Physical Training. The other, a Woman Education Officer, will be responsible for the teaching of Infant and Junior Methods at the Training Centre and for the training and welfare of the women student-teachers who attend the Centre as day-students. With these additions the senior staff now consists of a Director and eleven Education Officers.

Although two local teachers were appointed to act as Group Supervisors of Schools the staff available is still far from adequate to provide satisfactorily for the supervision and inspection of the rapidly expanding school system. Divisional Education Officers could be posted only to two out of the five Divisions, and the urgent need for a considerably increased number of local supervisory staff became more apparent.

The standard of staffing in all types of schools showed a marked improvement over previous years, both as regards numbers and qualifications of teachers. Rural schools benefited by the first output of 39 Certificated Teachers from the Batu Lintang Training Centre who took up duty at the beginning of 1950 in Government, Local Authority, Mission or Private Schools. The staffs of the urban Mission Schools were strengthened considerably by the arrival from overseas of a number of qualified and experienced European, American and Asian teachers. Vacation courses conducted by Education Officers in the First and Third Divisions proved very successful, and serving untrained teachers, including a number from Chinese Schools, derived great benefit from these courses.

The school population rose from 35,800 in 1949 to 39,423 at the end of 1950. The total enrolment in 1941 was approximately 19,000; so the number of pupils has been more than doubled over the past nine years. The increase in the number of girls attending school continued to be encouraging, and the number of children of the indigenous peoples who entered schools again rose sharply. From the English Schools 125 candidates sat for the Cambridge University Overseas Examinations as compared with 78 in the previous year, and the number of pupils in Chinese Middle classes increased from 1,025 to 1,202 over the same period. There was still a large number of over-age pupils at all stages of the school system. In the higher classes their presence was explained partly by the effects of the war which caused many children to lose four or five years of education, and partly by the number of pupils who transfer to Mission English Schools after attending Chinese Schools for a number of years. The admission of considerable numbers of over-age pupils to the lower standards showed, however, that there was still much that is unsatisfactory in the attitude of parents and in the organisation of many schools.

The first output of trained teachers enabled the Local Authorities to open some new schools, but in general the year was one of consolidation in the developing Local Authority School system. Weaknesses involved in the devolution of control of Primary Education from the Central Government to Local Authorities, the members of which were mostly illiterate, became apparent and many of the resulting problems have still to be solved. It was possible, however, to gain more detailed knowledge of these problems, and also to assess the degrees of enthusiasm and capabilities in different areas and at the various levels. It was encouraging to note the increasing numbers of Authorities and School Committees which showed an appreciation of the need to develop their own schemes for raising funds to finance further expansion of their educational services. The urgent need to provide, at all levels, more professional guidance from departmental officers became increasingly obvious.

The appointment of the first Woman Education Officer last year enabled various improvements to be made during 1950 in the educational facilities for women and girls. At the beginning of the year a central Domestic Science Centre was opened where instruction was given to fifty senior girls

from various Kuching schools, and Needlework classes for teachers were held during the afternoons. A few girls were admitted as day-students for full-time instruction at the Teacher Training Centre, and part-time courses in general teaching methods were organised for a group of serving women teachers.

Through the generosity of the Australian Goodwill Mission a considerable quantity of visual-aid equipment, including film-strip projectors and sound film projectors, was supplied to the department during the year. Under the Lord Mayor of London's Fund the nucleus of a teachers' reference library was provided, and the opening of a local branch of the British Council resulted in improved library facilities for students in Kuching and Sibü. The Sarawak Government donated a sum of \$50,000 to help with the establishment of the new University of Malaya and agreed to pay an annual contribution in future years.

The Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State, Sir Christopher Cox, K.C.M.G., and an Assistant Advisor Miss F. H. Gwilliam, visited Sarawak during the year. Both visited many schools and areas and gave very valuable advice on the future development of education in the Colony. In September the Director attended the second conference of Directors of Education from the Far-Eastern territories which was again held in Singapore.

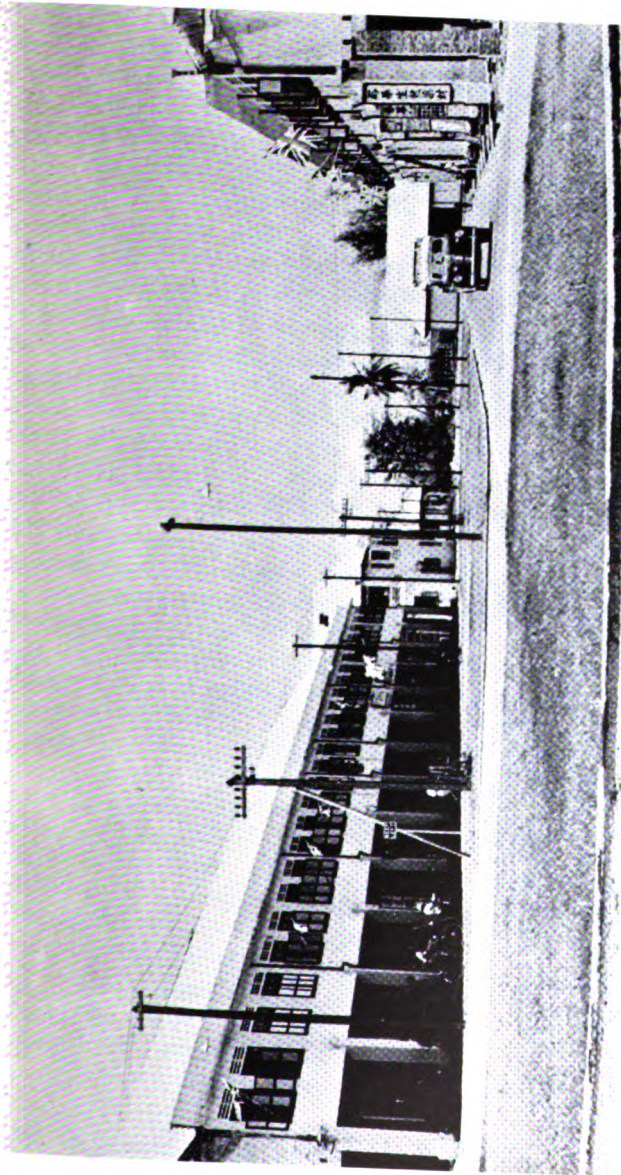
At the end of the year the Education Ordinance, 1950, was enacted which gave greater control over schools than was provided in the previous Schools Ordinance, which was replaced by the new legislation.

Finance.

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services:—

	1940.	1949.	1950 (estimate).
Central Government funds ...	\$166,881	\$328,995	\$532,318
Local Authority funds ...	nil	44,041	157,985
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	nil	158,981	234,868
Total ...	\$166,881 £19,469	\$532,017 £62,068	\$925,171 £107,936

It was reported that during 1950 the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$414,000 (£48,300) and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$1,492,240 (£168,320) on educational



Much progress was made during the year on rebuilding the important town of Miri, the market area of which was almost totally destroyed during the late war.

services. These amounts were mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions and were additional to grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority funds. The Local Authorities estimated that in addition to the money voted from their own funds they would spend an additional \$17,058 (£1,989) raised by school fees or education cesses.

Government Schools.

At the end of 1950 there were 47 Government Schools staffed by 102 teachers and with 4,037 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 50 schools with 91 teachers and 3,760 pupils. Three Government Schools were taken over by Local Authorities during the year.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. No fees are charged but the pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees with advisory powers function at a number of these schools.

With the exception of one school in Kuching at which some post-primary classes have been established, all these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction. Before the war English was taught only in "special classes" attached to one school in Kuching; and this subject was not included in the curriculum of the pre-war Malay Teacher Training College. Since the war there has been a great demand for English. This has been met partly by the engagement of English-speaking teachers in a few of the larger schools, and principally by the inclusion of English in the curriculum of the new Teacher Training Centre. By the end of 1950 trained teachers from the Centre who had been posted to Government Schools numbered 29 and most of these were able to introduce the teaching of English as a subject.

At most of these schools the number of pupils remaining in school for more than one or two years continued to be discouragingly low. There was, however, a noticeable improvement in some schools where trained teachers had been posted.

At the Government School at Batu Lintang, which is run in conjunction with the Teacher Training Centre, post-primary academic courses were held for boys who had com-

pleted the primary courses in rural vernacular schools. 16 new pupils, including 7 from Brunei, were admitted at the beginning of 1950, bringing the total in these classes to 40.

One Malay girl who had completed the primary course in a vernacular school was awarded a Government scholarship to enable her to enter a Mission English School.

Local Authority Schools.

At the end of 1950 there were 67 Local Authority Schools with 77 teachers and an enrolment of 2,545 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1949 were 40 schools with 50 teachers and 1,625 pupils. The 27 additional schools included 7 which were taken over from other educational bodies. Requests were made to the Authorities for the opening of numerous other schools, but most Authorities preferred that expansion should keep pace with output of trained teachers from Batu Lintang and that promising young men should be sent for training rather than utilised to open new schools.

Local Authorities are financed mainly by a refund of the head tax or door tax collected in their area, together with a direct grant from central funds based on the amount of the tax so collected. In order to raise additional revenue for education, Local Authorities have in some cases agreed to substitute head tax for door tax or to impose an education cess. Most Authorities now charge fees in their schools.

In the more progressive areas the work of School Committees provided an outlet for local enthusiasm for education and an opportunity for public service within village communities. Committees were active in organising the maintenance of school buildings, the raising of funds for the purchase of sports gear and other equipment not provided by the Authorities, and in assisting with the organisation of sports meetings and similar events.

The general organisation and curriculum of these schools are similar to those adopted for Government Schools.

Private Schools or Village Committee Schools.

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged in the meantime to open schools under the management of Committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools"

or "Private Schools" receive financial assistance from Government. There were 35 schools of this type at the end of 1950 with 45 teachers and 1,769 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 38 schools with 58 teachers and 1,891 pupils. The slight decreases in numbers are explained by the fact that several more of these schools were taken over, as in accordance with general policy, by Local Authorities during the year. Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$5,821 (£679), as compared with \$3,400 (£407) in 1949, were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from the Mission representative in the area.

Mission Schools.

At the end of the year there were 59 of these schools with 243 teachers and 7,166 pupils. At the end of 1949 there was the same number of schools with 219 teachers and 6,550 pupils.

Grants from Government or Local Authorities amounting to \$100,182 (£11,688) were paid to Mission Schools during the year as compared with \$85,942 (£10,027) during the previous year. For the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff, and a more favourable formula was adopted for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government Services. At 7 of these schools classes of Standard VII and above were provided in which 293 pupils were enrolled. This figure compares with 239 pupils in 1949 and 185 in 1948. 93 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior School Certificate Examination at the end of 1950. 53 candidates out of 66 entrants were successful in this examination held in 1949. Classes for the Cambridge School Certificate candidates were held at 4 schools and 32 candidates, of whom 6 were girls, sat for this examination at the end of 1950. 9 candidates out of 11 entrants obtained School Certificates the previous year.

The improved staffing position at these schools enabled the curriculum in the secondary classes to be widened beyond the minimum required by the examining Board. The

teaching of History was introduced at some schools, and a beginning made with the teaching of Science but lack of sufficient accommodation and apparatus were serious handicaps. Increased attention was paid to out-of-school activities, including concerts, games and athletics.

In the rural schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

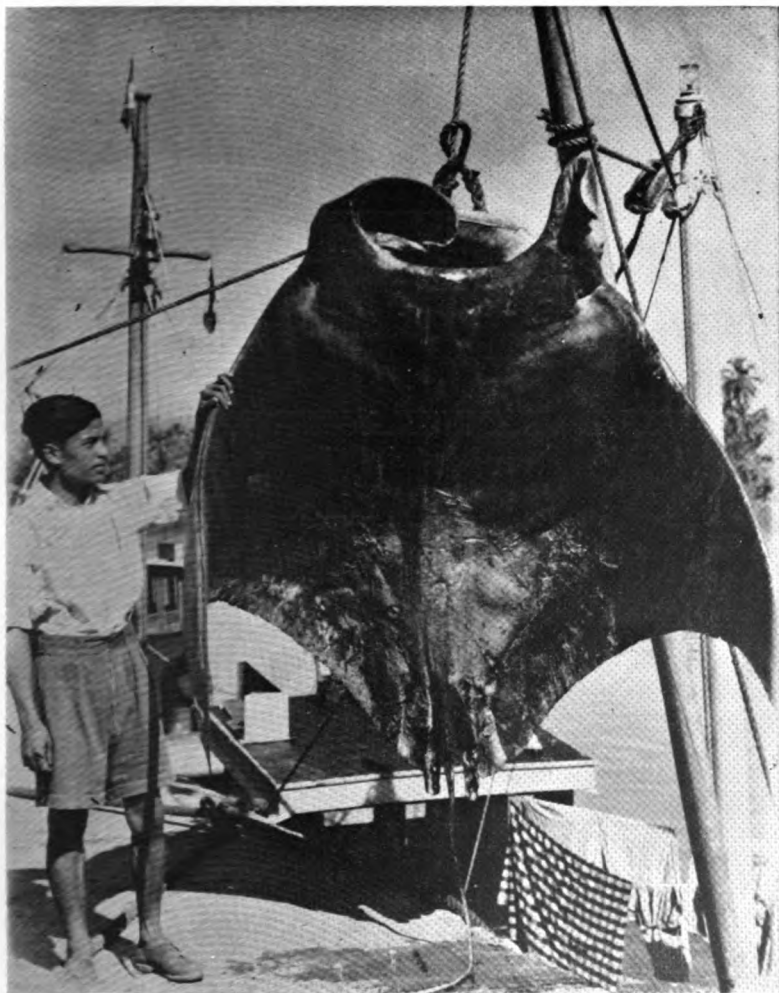
Chinese Schools.

Several new Chinese Schools were registered during 1950 bringing the total number of these schools to 215 with 23,906 pupils and 804 teachers. In the previous year there were 209 schools with 21,800 pupils and 730 teachers. Most of these schools were controlled by Committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from Associations and individuals. During the year "block" grants amounting to approximately \$48,498 (£5,657), as compared with \$42,000 (£4,900) in 1949 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at 77 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of 15,425 pupils. In addition one Chinese School was aided by a Local Authority.

There were 2 "Junior Middle" Schools and 9 other schools had combined Primary and Middle Departments. A "Senior Middle" course was established at the American Methodist Chinese School at Sibuluan. Plans were in preparation during the year for the opening of a Senior Middle School in Kuching during 1951.

The Chinese "National Language" Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction in Chinese Schools in Sarawak, but greatly increased attention is being given to the teaching of English as a subject. Teachers' Vacation Courses were organised largely with the object of improving the teaching of oral English in these schools.

In the third Division, where there is a large number of Chinese Schools, a common Higher Primary Examination was held for the first time, under an Examination Board of which the Divisional Education Officer was Chairman. The holding of this joint examination is a sign of successful co-operation among the Managements and should help to raise the standard of attainment in the schools and to improve the curriculum.



A giant ray caught at sea off the Sarawak River, 1950.

A disappointingly low proportion of teachers in this section regard teaching as a career, and the short-term contracts offered by most Boards of Management result in a feeling of insecurity amongst the teachers. As a result there is little continuity in staffing at most schools as resignations and transfers are far too common a feature.

Higher Education.

There were two admissions to the University of Malaya during the year. One student from Sibn entered the University as a private candidate to study for a Science Degree, and a woman teacher from Kuching was awarded a Government Scholarship which will enable her to study for an Arts Degree leading to a career in teaching.

A Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship was awarded to a young Sea-Dayak. This student had completed a two years' engagement as Assistant at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. The Scholarship will enable him to take a one-year course of pre-degree studies which if successful will be followed by a three-year degree course at a British University.

A private student from Kuching was admitted to the University of Nottingham for the 1950/51 session to prepare for the LL. B. Degree. Arrangements were being made for him to be admitted as a student of Lincoln's Inn.

In addition to the students referred to above, three Medical Students, one Dental Student, one Agricultural Student, one Arts Student, one Civil Engineering Student and one Surveying Student were taking courses in Singapore or Malaya during 1950. One local Nurse was in training in the United Kingdom, and one student entered a British University for a degree course, both under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarships Scheme. One student was studying Municipal Administration in England under a scholarship awarded by the British Council, and another was holding a Fellowship awarded by the Commonwealth of Australia for a course in Surveying.

Teacher-Training.

Teacher-training is carried on at Batu Lintang near Kuching at a Centre which is financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The Staff consists of a Principal, an Assistant Principal who is a Roman Catholic Priest with

academic and professional qualifications, and an assistant staff of local teachers of various races. This staff was strengthened during the year by the addition of a teacher with qualifications in Handwork and Physical Training, on secondment from the United Kingdom, and by the assistance of a Woman Officer trained in Infant and Junior methods, also on secondment from the United Kingdom. Efforts to recruit an Anglican priest as a second Assistant Principal were unfortunately not successful, but arrangements were made for the part-time assistance from the beginning of 1951, of a Priest in the Anglican Mission who is also on the staff of the Mission's Boys' School in Kuching.

The practical co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school continues to be a most important aspect of the Centre. Another vital feature is the gathering together of students of all races, religions and creeds in order to develop mutual understanding and to foster a corporate spirit.

All student teachers receive free board, tuition and transport and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme, irrespective of the financial status of his family.

The course, which is at present of two years' duration, was designed to improve the academic standard of all students, including the study of English, and to give them a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods. Considerable emphasis was also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and indigenous cultures. Religious instruction was arranged for both Christian and Muslim students and chapels for different sects were provided in portions of the huts.

During 1950 there were 120 student teachers at Batu Lintang of whom 48 were in their first year and the remainder in their second year of training. This number was composed of representatives of 10 different races of Sarawak, and included 20 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei. Three women were admitted to the Training Centre as day-students. At the end of the year 49 Sarawak students, in addition to 9 from Brunei, completed their training and were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country.

The scheme had still to be limited to a course to provide teachers for the lower-primary schools. Difficulties in recruiting staff and pupils made it impossible to establish, as had

been hoped, a higher course catering for students from the central English Schools with a minimum qualification of "Standard VII".

As an experiment several Vacation Courses for serving teachers were organised by Education Officers in the First and Third Divisions. The response from teachers and the resulting improvements in enthusiasm and technique were very encouraging, and plans were made for extending this form of help to teachers.

Adult Education.

In April 1950 the first group of 22 married couples completed their training at the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit, and a new intake of 24 couples was admitted. The course, which lasts two years, is designed to help selected Sea-Dayak couples to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular and to learn simple market arithmetic. During the course students receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The main building consists of a community centre of an improved "long-house" design which provides class-rooms, dining and recreational facilities and a dispensary. Students and their families live during the course both in the long-house and in individual homes, of different designs, which have been built on model small holdings within the school estate. This arrangement provides pupils with practical experience of both types of accommodation by which they can begin to form opinions as to which would be the more suitable for adoption in their home areas. The school grounds occupy some 200 acres, one quarter of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the Colony, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations. The School is financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Efforts were made during the year to ensure that the pupils discharged in April had the fullest opportunity of putting into practice what they had learned during their training. The principal was able to visit most of them in their home areas and valuable help was given to many pupils by Agricultural Officers and Assistants. It is clear that

some pupils are already exercising a progressive influence on their neighbours by the introduction of better methods of agriculture and by improvements in the home. A few have unfortunately abandoned agriculture for more profitable employment during the present rubber boom. A full assessment of the results of the training will not be possible for some time, but it is already obvious that arrangements for the efficient supervision of all pupils after they return to their homes will have to form an essential part of the scheme.

During the early part of the year a pilot Literacy Scheme was conducted for adult Sea-Dayaks living in the headwaters of the River Paku, a tributary of the Saribas in the Second Division. The Saribas Dayaks have long been regarded as among the most progressive sections of their race. Co-operative Societies have operated successfully in that area, and there has been a positive demand for some form of adult literacy work. The scheme was organised by an Education Officer and a Dayak assistant, making use of literate Dayaks in the area. Two illustrated primers were produced for the scheme on a Gestepoint machine in the Education Department, and some small booklets were produced by the same process as reading material for the "follow-up". Although the number of men and women who became literate as a result of the campaign was not large, valuable lessons have been learnt for the guidance of future schemes of community development.

Since January 1950 a monthly illustrated newspaper in the Sea-Dayak vernacular has been produced by the Department. About 800 copies are sold monthly, each paper being usually shared amongst many people.

Night classes at a number of Chinese Schools and at a few other schools continued to be well attended. These courses generally aim at enabling adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and in a few instances to study English.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities.

There were several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose objects were to foster social, educational and cultural activities. A few provided facilities for indoor and outdoor games.

Several new troops of Boy Scouts were formed, including four from Sea Dayak areas in the Second Division. The



The Round Tower, Kuching.

movement received a stimulus when the Travelling Commissioner from Imperial Headquarters, Mr. F. H. J. Dahl, visited the Colony during 1950 and toured the country widely. During his stay in Kuching, Scout matters were discussed by interested persons and organisations in a meeting at which His Excellency the Governor presided. The Commissioner organised a Preliminary Training Course where some 40 senior Scouts received training in the conduct of Scout Troops and Groups; those who completed the course received a certificate issued by Imperial Headquarters.

The Girl Guide movement made steady progress. Through the generosity of the British Council, two local Guides, one a Chinese and the other a Malay, were able to visit the United Kingdom where they attended a three-months' intensive training course. They returned with new knowledge and ideas which have given a stimulus to the movement.

The department continued to be responsible for the Kuching Boys' Home for juvenile delinquents. There were 15 boys at the beginning of the year and since then there were 10 new admissions; 6 left and all were found suitable employment. After-care work was much improved, the Warden keeping in close touch with all boys after they leave the Home. A small live-stock farm was started and recreational facilities were improved. Members of the Social Welfare Committee and of the Rotary Club made frequent visits.

Health.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

The senior medical staff approved for the Medical Department for the year 1950, was a Director, a Deputy Director, nine medical officers and a Lady Medical Officer. During the year two new medical officers arrived, and a serving officer was promoted to Deputy Director. There remained unfilled two vacancies for medical officers.

At the beginning of the year the senior nursing establishment was complete and consisted of a matron, a sister tutor, a health visitor and four nursing sisters. One nursing sister vacancy was caused through illness, but a replacement was expected early in 1951.

The Sarawak establishment includes provision for the neighbouring State of Brunei, and one medical officer and one nursing sister were seconded to Brunei throughout the year.

Although the position with regard to expatriate staff was reasonably good considerable difficulties were still experienced with locally recruited staff. There were few recruits presenting themselves during the year as probationer nurses or hospital assistants, and the year ended with fewer nurses in employment than in January, although there was a small increase in the number of hospital assistants.

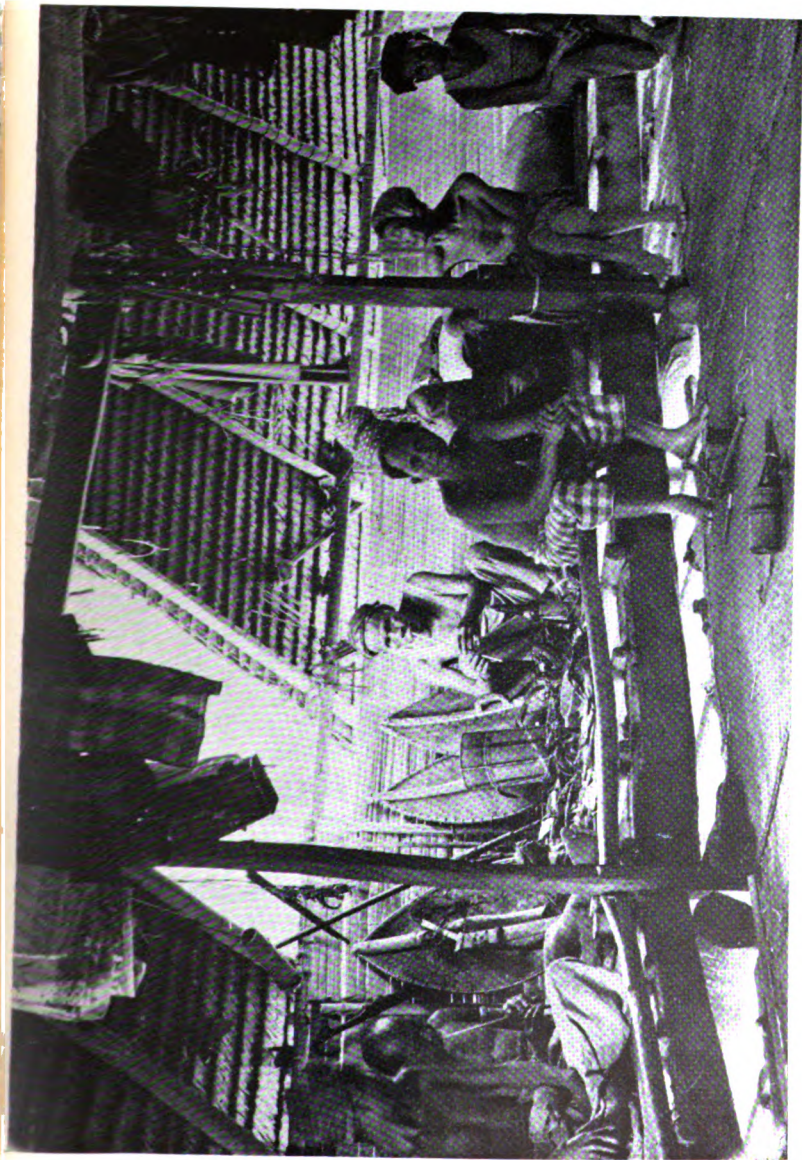
As a result of these staff shortages and in order to permit staff regular off-duty days it was found necessary temporarily, by closing a ward in the General Hospital, Kuching, to reduce the hospital beds by twenty-three.

Towards the end of the year a scheme for the employment of assistant nurses was approved, and will be put into operation at the beginning of 1951. This scheme allows for the employment of girls of a lower educational standard than that required for student nurses. The function of the assistant nurses is to relieve the trained nurses by carrying out in the wards the practical procedures and simple nursing techniques for which a high standard of training is not required.

The numbers of hospital assistants and nurses who completed their training during the year was twelve and four respectively. At the close of the year twenty-six probationary hospital assistants and nineteen probationary nurses were in training. With a full time professional sister tutor available considerable progress was made and teaching standards were materially improved. A promising small nursing school has been built up and excellently equipped with the help of very fine teaching apparatus provided by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. The special teaching accommodation consists of a lecture room and a practical teaching room both of which, in equipment, leave little to be desired.

Nevertheless, perfection has not been achieved and teaching in the wards has been sadly hampered because of shortage of staff.

Courses of lectures in midwifery and paediatric nursing for senior staff were conducted by the Midwife Tutor and the Paediatric Sister who have been provided for a period of fifteen months by the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund. In addition, for the greater part of the year four



Land Dayaks resting in the head-house at Kampong Riom, near Segu, during a stage in the rites formerly performed for the reception of new human heads.

understudies, senior nurses, have been attached to each of these U.N.I.C.E.F. officers and have received extremely valuable training in their respective specialties. By the end of the year the U.N.I.C.E.F. officers felt that they had achieved their main objective and that their understudies were fully capable of running the Children's and Maternity Wards on their own.

Six midwives were continuously in training throughout the year in the General Hospital, Kuching, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. Three completed their training in 1950 and received certificates.

In the past training was solely in the conduct of labour, but, as circumstances have permitted, more and more emphasis has been placed on training in ante-natal supervision and post-natal care and at the end of the year, coincident with a decision, subject to funds being made available, to initiate a domiciliary midwifery service to relieve pressure on the limited number of obstetric beds in the hospital and for other reasons, it was proposed to increase the training period for midwives to two years. The object of this proposal was to enable sounder training to be given in ante-natal and post-natal care and to give trainees opportunity for experience in domiciliary work, namely, in the environment in which, after training, the majority of these women would work.

An obvious advantage of initiation of this scheme at present is that, now, advantage can be taken, approval having been obtained from the U.N.I.C.E.F. organisation, of the presence of the U.N.I.C.E.F. Midwife Tutor to initiate the work and guide it in its early stages.

At the end of the year the scheme was under the consideration of Government.

Five men were sent to Singapore in January to attend the course of training with a view to sitting for the examination for the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Of these, four were successful in the examination. The unsuccessful man will make a further attempt and three more men are ready to go to Singapore in 1951.

In 1948 there were three certificated health inspectors in the Colony. At the end of 1950 there were nine.

In the past year or two it had been hoped, with the assistance of the Sanitary Superintendent, to develop a syllabus of training which would satisfy the Royal Sanitary Institute

and enable examinations for the R.S.I. certificate to be held in Kuching. This hope has not yet been abandoned but discussion which the Director had with the Institute when he was in London suggests that it may be wiser to defer this project in the meantime.

Shortage of personnel has seriously hindered increasing the numbers of health visitor trainees. The importance of this work is clearly realised, however, and every effort was made to obtain more personnel. At the beginning of the year one trained nurse and two district midwives, as they are at present designated, were in training. By the end of the year the numbers had been increased to two trained nurses and four district midwives, small numbers in all conscience, but taking account of the general shortage of nursing personnel, a real advance.

No major public health legislation was enacted during the year.

New Buildings.

The marked increase in building costs during the year had its effect on the Department's substantial building programme, certain projects not being completed or, unfortunately, abandoned temporarily.

In Kuching General Hospital a number of minor improvements, although not all planned, were effected. In Simuanggang a building was erected providing accommodation for outpatients and a small laboratory. In Sibü a substantial building programme was planned including a new outpatient department, a mental ward, a tuberculosis ward and a new nurses' home. Of these only the mental ward was proceeded with and this was incomplete at the end of the year.

One new outstation dispensary with rest beds were provided and improvements effected in other dispensaries. Erection of one new dispensary in a very remote area was undertaken but was not completed.

Finance.

The expenditure on medical and health services in 1950 was provisionally \$1,461,513.92 compared with \$1,161,750.54 for 1949.

GENERAL SANITATION.

There are no major schemes for the water-borne disposal of sewage. In the residential areas of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have septic tank installations, but general nightsoil disposal is by the double-bucket system. There is no doubt that this will have to continue for many years, but every encouragement will be given to the installation of septic tanks in new buildings where practicable. In the villages and less congested areas, river or pit latrines are the rule.

Nightsoil disposal in Kuching is undertaken by the Municipality and the nightsoil is treated in a series of three septic tanks before discharge into the river below the town. In Sibü and Miri the work is carried out by contractors and crude sewage is discharged into the rivers when the tide is ebbing.

In Kuching collection and disposal of refuse is efficiently carried out by the Municipality, disposal being by controlled tipping in various areas where it is desired to reclaim land. In Sibü the organisation has been greatly improved with the provision of mechanical transport and now operates as in Kuching. Elsewhere refuse removal services are in operation with varying degrees of effectiveness and there was a general improvement during the year.

The main towns and several small townships have piped water supplies collected from controlled catchment areas, but no treatment is undertaken except at Sibü. Here the supply is drawn from the heavily-polluted Rejang River and is treated by storage and chlorination. Elsewhere, rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population, but these sources are subject to contamination and are therefore a threat to the public health.

Food premises in towns operate under licence and are subject to inspection by public health staff when available. Though there has been a slight improvement in conditions, methods of manufacture, storage and preparation for sale remain in many cases primitive. Food hawkers present a major problem; their handling methods are crude and their numbers make control almost impossible; typhoid endemicity and the incidence of intestinal infections therefore remain considerable. The standard of the markets in the towns was reasonably good, as they were subject to departmental inspection and municipal control.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

Available information suggests that tuberculosis is the largest and most urgent problem confronting the Department. No general survey has been carried out in the Colony as a whole or even in any part of it. Nevertheless, such incomplete and inadequate figures as are available indicate that tuberculosis incidence is high generally and especially in urban areas.

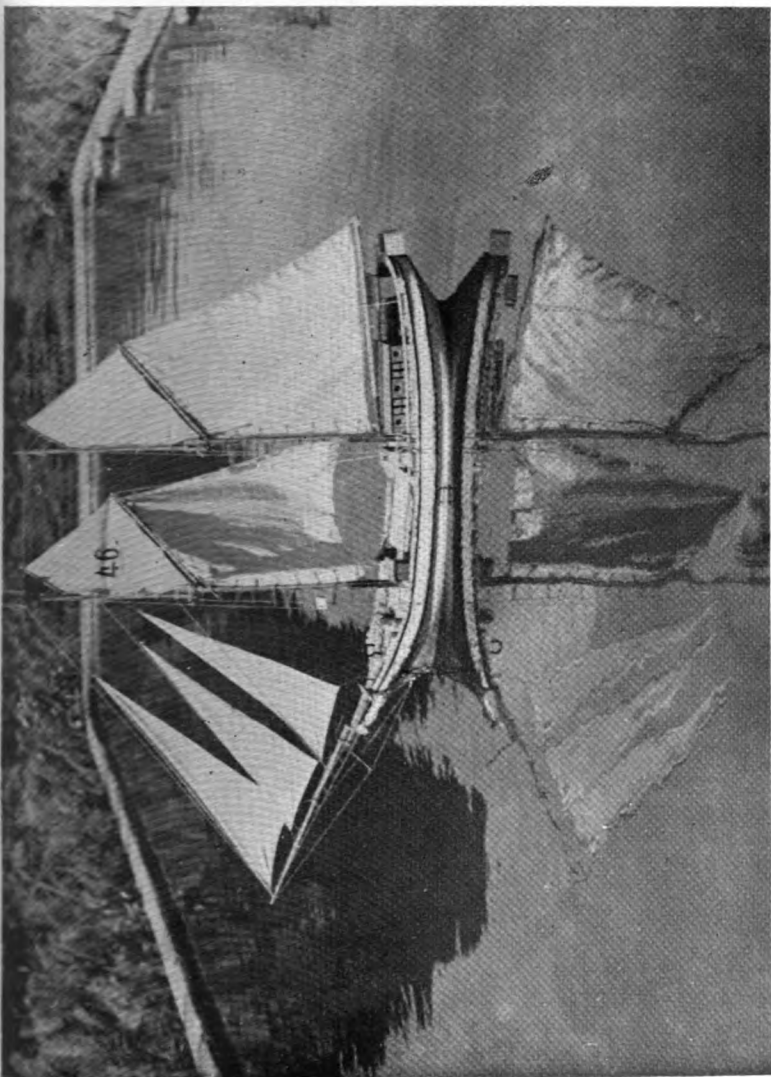
All medical Department staff in Kuching were tuberculin tested and negative reactors were given B.C.G. vaccination. A similar procedure was carried out in a small number of contacts of notified cases. The figures of persons tuberculin tested and B.C.G. vaccinated up to the end of December were as follows :—

Number tuberculin tested	... 528
Number vaccinated with B.C.G.	... 167

The only special tuberculosis beds in the Colony were those in the General Hospital, Kuching, and numbered fifty. These were constantly filled and, in fact, in December, over twenty additional cases were being treated in general wards. Provision for a twenty bed tuberculosis ward at Sibu Hospital was made in the 1950 budget but the work had not been undertaken by the end of the year.

It was clearly necessary that the limited number of beds available be put to best use and that open cases should not be nursed in general wards. Thus a tuberculosis clinic service was started in a small way in Kuching and it was just finding its feet as the year closed. Outpatient treatment and supervision has been started and also home supervision of suitable cases. The Health Officer, Kuching, is responsible for this service and he has the co-operation of all members of the Department whose activities touch the tuberculosis problem at any point.

Discussions have taken place regarding the enlistment of voluntary aid, and the formation of an anti-tuberculosis association is under consideration. Such an association could render assistance of a high order, and, as there is considerable public consciousness of the importance of this matter, there is reason to be optimistic about the early formation of an association.



A model boat, an exact replica of the native original, and one of many sailed in the model regattas which have recently become so popular on the lake at Bau—the flooded gold mining site.

Application for assistance has also been made to WHO/UNICEF. These agencies have been asked to provide a B.C.G. vaccination team of one doctor and one or two nurses for a period of 1 year to carry out survey and protective vaccination in Kuching, Sibü, Miri and Brunei. A request has also been made for equipment for mass radiography and other equipment for the Chest Clinic.

Malaria.

No reports were received of unusually high incidence of this disease in any part of the Colony but it undoubtedly gives rise to a very considerable morbidity and a substantial mortality. The towns and trading centres are relatively free from infection as ordinary maintenance is, in view of the habits of the probable vectors *A. leucosphyrus* and *A. umbrosus*, of itself a real anti-malaria measure. Outside the towns there is certainly high endemicity in many places but exact information is still lacking.

During the year the total number of cases diagnosed as malaria at hospitals and dispensaries was 6,689. In 1949 the comparable figure was 10,389. As in the past the great majority of these cases were diagnosed on clinical grounds.

Leprosy.

The number of cases admitted to the Leper Settlement during the year was 66 as compared with 59 in 1949 and 67 in 1948. There would thus appear to have been no significant change in incidence.

The Settlement population* at the end of the year was 444 as compared with 418 at the beginning of the year.

Poliomyelitis.

As mentioned in the report for 1949, during that year the Colony experienced its first recognised outbreak of poliomyelitis. At the end of 1949 case incidence had markedly declined in Kuching and the First Division but cases were continuing to occur in the vicinity of Sibü and in the Third Division generally. During 1950 a total of 28 cases was recorded. Case incidence declined as the year advanced, sixteen cases occurring in the first quarter, seven in the second, four in the third and one in the last quarter. One case occurred in each of the three main towns Kuching, Sibü and Miri. All other cases came from rural areas, twenty-

four of them from the Third Division. No deaths were recorded from poliomyelitis.

The epidemic can be said to have petered out some eleven months after it started and is succeeded by the occurrence of the odd sporadic case.

Yaws.

This infection is common and widespread throughout the territory, although reports of hospital assistants working from the travelling dispensaries suggest that the incidence may be declining in certain areas. Some support is lent to this by the fact that only 7,592 cases were diagnosed during the year as compared with 15,370 cases in 1949.

Diphtheria.

There was a further and considerable decline in the number of cases notified, 46 cases being recorded as compared with 82 cases in 1949 and 249 cases in 1948.

The Enteric Fevers.

There were no serious outbreaks of these diseases but sporadic cases recurred throughout the Colony. In Sibiu, where for some years past case incidence has been higher than elsewhere, there was a substantial reduction in the number of cases.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

These terms continued to figure prominently in returns from hospitals and outstation dispensaries.

Helminthiasis.

A very large proportion of the population constantly harbour intestinal worms, especially ascaris. Ankylostomiasis is also common, being associated with defective sanitation and the use of nightsoil as fertiliser in agriculture.

Veneral Diseases.

These diseases occur throughout the country, in fairly low incidence in most rural areas and not particularly high incidence even in the towns. During the year 1,353 cases of gonorrhoea and 1,391 cases of syphilis were diagnosed at hospitals and dispensaries. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 839 and 1,883.

Non-endemic diseases.

No cases of major epidemic disease such as smallpox, plague or cholera occurred in the Colony during the year. In fact they have not been reported in Sarawak for many years. A considerable amount of vaccination was carried out, especially in the First Division, in view of the occurrence of smallpox in Pontianak, a town in neighbouring territory of the United States of Indonesia.

Malnutrition and Deficiency Diseases.

Deficiency diseases in severe form are not often encountered nevertheless signs of undernourishment are not infrequent. In certain areas, such as parts of the First Division, although there is no accurate measure of the degree of malnutrition it is known that at times of the year food supplies are deficient and the people go short while waiting for the new harvest. In the towns too undernourishment is frequently observed in babies attending hospitals or infant welfare clinics, but the cause of this is less frequently due to want than it is to ignorance. The percentage of children attending the infant welfare centres in Kuching who were found to be underweight during the year was 30%. It is of interest that this referred to children over 1 year of age. Children under 1 year were seldom recorded as being underweight.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

At the end of the year Government was operating three hospitals, twenty-four outstation dispensaries, seventeen travelling dispensaries, sixteen of which were river craft and one a road vehicle. Most outstation dispensaries have from six to twelve rest beds and simple inpatient treatment is provided.

At Miri, the Sarawak Oilfields Limited operates its hospital of 124 beds primarily for its employees but by arrangement with the Company its hospital facilities are made available to the public on repayment by Government. A similar arrangement with the Government of Brunei enables people of the Fifth Division to receive treatment in Brunei Hospital.

General Hospital, Kuching.

This is the largest and most elaborate medical institution in the Colony and it finished the year with 277 general and special beds and 100 mental beds. It is the training centre for hospital assistants, nurses, midwives, etc. The volume of work undertaken remained considerable although there was a slight drop in the number of inpatients and a substantial reduction in the number of outpatient attendances. During the year the number of inpatients treated was 5,064 while total outpatient attendances numbered 73,506.

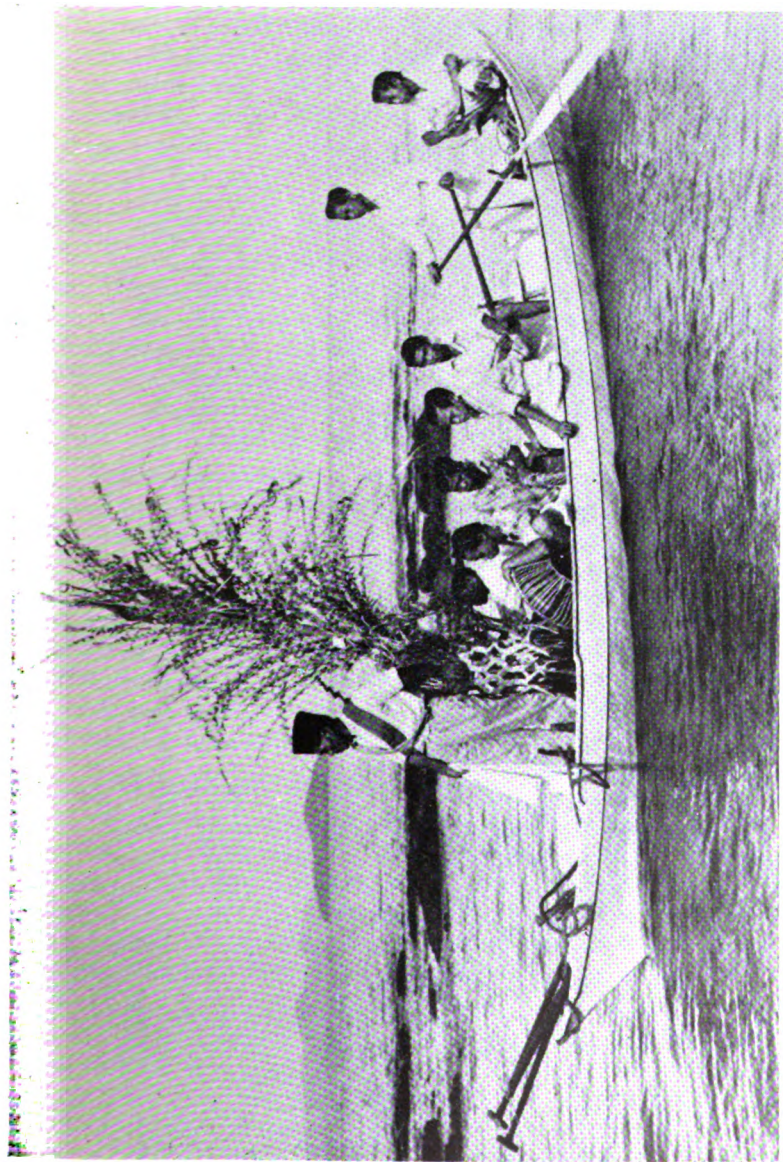
No further bed accommodation was provided during the year but a number of minor, but nevertheless important structural improvements were effected. These included a new Malay kitchen, a fuel store, ward pantries, etc. The lecture room was considerably enlarged and very adequately equipped. In the Children's Ward, two isolation cubicles were constructed and also a further cubicle to serve as a food preparation room. This was excellently equipped with refrigerator, milk steriliser, hot-plate, etc. provided by U.N.I.C.E.F. In addition the walls of the ward were tiled.

There was steady improvement in ward equipment and special equipment. Of the latter special mention may be made of the new operating table which, ordered in 1946, arrived during the year. Other noteworthy acquisitions were a diathermy apparatus and an electrocardiograph.

The new X-ray plant installed towards the end of 1949 functioned efficiently throughout the year and was a great asset.

As mentioned previously, staff shortage was very acute and, in July, it was found necessary to close Ward No. 5, thus reducing bed strength by 23. Even with this, staff was seriously overworked and off duty time was totally inadequate. The seriousness of the situation can be measured by the fact that it was only possible to give probationer hospital assistants and nurses one day off duty per month.

The Mental Section, which is situated in the same compound as the General Hospital, is not satisfactory. Accommodation is neither suitable nor sufficient and treatment is, in consequence, very difficult. Nevertheless improvements were effected during the year, and a small measure of categorisation of patients was achieved.



Party circling Satang Island in "Semah" fertility ceremonies 1950,
so that turtles and fish may be numerous during the year.

In the Laboratory, also, there was steady improvement as additional equipment arrived and was installed. This institution, the only one of its kind in the Colony, is a satisfactory one and it functions not only as a medical laboratory but as a public analytical laboratory as well. When medical establishment allows of the allocation of a medical officer to the Laboratory its work and usefulness will be greatly increased.

Central Dispensary, Kuching.

This is the Outpatient Department of the General Hospital although sited in the centre of the town one and a half miles from the hospital. At the beginning of the year the two sections, male and female, occupied the ground and first floors of a building the top floor of which was occupied by the Education Department. In addition the pharmacy was housed in an adjoining building.

The accommodation available to the Department was shared by the outpatient department and the main Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, and was totally inadequate as well as not being entirely suitable. This unsatisfactory situation deteriorated further during the year when the Department was forced to give up its accommodation on the first floor of the main building. Work is carried on under considerable difficulty, and the Maternity and Child Welfare sessions and, at the end of the year, Chest Clinic sessions added to the pressure on accommodation.

Maternal and Child Welfare Service.

Three centres were in operation throughout the year, two in Kuching and one in a rural area fifteen miles from Kuching. Steady progress was made and the work done had more than doubled by the end of the year. Shortage of staff and limited accommodation appear at present to be the only limiting factors, for the service is immensely popular.

At the Main Centre in the Central Dispensary attendances are mainly Chinese. In the Kampong Clinic all the patients are Malays, while at the 15th Mile Clinic ninety per cent of those attending are Land Dayaks, a population group sorely in need of health services. At the latter centre sessions are held once a week and their popularity can be gauged by the number of attendances of infants and mothers during the year, namely 1,719.

It had been hoped to commence this work in Sibü and perhaps other towns but this was not possible and will not be until additional staff can be provided.

The Dental Clinic, Kuching.

Dental staff remained unchanged from 1949. It comprises one Dental Officer, one Government Dentist on contract a dental mechanic and one hospital mandor. This team is accommodated in the General Hospital and has two dental surgeries and a workshop. The small department is well equipped, all apparatus indented for in 1949 having arrived during 1950. The new equipment includes a Watson Dental X-Ray Machine.

Treatment is provided for hospital patients, Government officers and their families, patients referred from the Central Dispensary, pregnant women referred by the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and school children.

Occasional visits were made by dental officers to out-stations.

The number of registered dentists practising in the Colony remained at 160, although only the Government dental staff were the holders of generally recognised dental diplomas. The others have diplomas of Chinese schools or have achieved to the status of dentist through an apprenticeship system. Standards are generally not high but these dentists provide the only dental care available to the vast majority of the population, and can be expected to do so for many years to come.

Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibü.

This institution with 101 general and special beds serves the largest administrative division in the Colony and it was very busy throughout the year.

A substantial building programme was planned for this institution and provision made in the 1950 budget. However, for various reasons, the greater part of the work was not undertaken. In fact the only capital works carried out were extension to the hospital kitchen, the erection of a mental observation ward which was incomplete at the end of the year, and the removal of the old sanitary accommodation inserted in the middle of the two main wards and erection of new sanitary annexes. Of the remaining works planned, the new outpatient department has been deferred, but it is hoped that the nurses' home and tuberculosis ward will be erected in 1951.

During the year there was steady improvement in equipment and the X-ray plant from Kuching, which was replaced by a new apparatus, was installed.

Nursing standards, too, improved as the presence of a nursing sister posted to Sibu for the first time in December, 1949, made itself felt.

The Maternity Ward, completed in December, 1949, was a great asset. The number of confinements conducted in the ward during the year was 265, a great advance on the previous year when only five maternity beds were available, and confinements numbered 164.

There was a substantial decline in the number of outpatients, total attendances during the year being 24,292 as compared with 29,832 in 1949. However, inpatients showed an increase from 8,260 in 1949 to 8,826 in 1950.

Simanggang Hospital.

At the end of the year this institution had twenty-four general beds and was doing good work. Admissions numbered 698 and total outpatient attendances were 19,075 of which 15,722 were new cases. Its first year with a medical officer in charge was very promising and the area had better medical service than in any previous year. Minor alterations and additions were made during the year, the most important of which was the erection of a semi-permanent structure to serve as outpatient department and laboratory and the installation of tank and piping for a piped water supply.

Provision has been made to increase the number of beds to 50 during 1951.

Outstation Dispensaries.

The number of dispensaries functioning during the year was twenty-four, the same as in 1949 now that the dispensary in Simanggang is classified as a hospital.

The policy of improving existing dispensaries was pursued and one new dispensary with bed accommodation was erected to replace an old, unsatisfactory and inadequate building.

As in the past years supervision of the work of the outstation dressers has been less than ideal and it was only in the Third Division that reasonably frequent supervising visits were made by medical officers. In spite of this it can again

be said that the hospital assistants did very good work which was, to judge from the requests for extension of this service, really appreciated by the people.

Total attendances at these dispensaries numbered 118,957 in 1950 as compared with 137,211 in 1949.

The Travelling Dispensaries.

(C.D. & W. Scheme No. D. 830).

The full travelling dispensary scheme of sixteen travelling units was in operation from 3rd January when the fourteen additional boats commenced work. The year's performance of these units has been very satisfactory and their regular penetration into areas previously untouched by medical services has been of great benefit. Reports from administrative officers have consistently recorded the popularity of the new service and public appreciation of it in the rivers served. The peoples of other rivers, not yet included in the scheme, have made frequent demands for visits from the boats and it has been difficult, sometimes, to convince them that frequent and regular visits are essential and that the usefulness of the boats would be largely lost if their itineraries were so extensive that visits to any particular place would be infrequent. As it is, itineraries are stretched to the limit and the service can only be profitably extended by the provision of additional units. It is planned to do this in 1953.

The maintaining of these units has been a not inconsiderable task and there have been many troubles. Mechanical defects have occurred with some frequency which is not surprising when one considers the hard and continuous work to which the engines are put. Nevertheless, as each boat is provided with a spare engine interruptions of schedules were not as significant as they might have been. There is little doubt, however, that as time goes on and engines begin to wear out troubles will increase. In fact, it is possible that major capital replacements will be necessary before the scheme has run its full course.

During 1949, total attendances at the two travelling dispensaries then operating numbered 36,045. The preliminary figures of total attendances at the sixteen travelling dispensaries during 1950 is 164,778.



A giant rock cod caught at Tanjong Po and the taxidermist of the Museum staff.

The Leper Settlement.

This institution is situated thirteen miles from Kuching and is accessible by motor road.

The Settlement accommodated 444 persons at 31st December, approximately 6% more than at the end of 1949, and can be said to have run with reasonable smoothness throughout the year.

There were twenty-five deaths during the year and thirteen persons were discharged. Some twenty persons, in addition, have done so well under treatment that they are being considered for discharge early in 1951.

It had been planned to initiate in 1950 a programme of replacement of buildings many of which were dilapidated. However, for financial reasons and also as modern treatment appeared to hold out a prospect of reducing the numbers of persons whom it would be necessary to segregate, this was deferred and no permanent building works were undertaken. Instead, five small temporary barracks were erected with the use of Settlement labour to relieve the congestion caused by the increase in population. Repairs to buildings and bridges were also undertaken, on payment, by inmates.

Treatment of all cases which might benefit was continued with sulphetrone and results were encouraging. However, for the last three months of the year oral sulphetrone was replaced by injections of basic sulphone which is considered to be even more effective and is certainly cheaper. This treatment has had its effect not only on the course of the disease but also on the outlook of those infected. Although the age-old horror of the disease remains among those not infected, people are beginning to realise it may be curable. Sufferers are no longer hopeless of cure and look forward to the day when they may be able to return to a normal life. This attitude is clearly reflected in the morale of the inmates and the Settlement community is a much happier one than it was in the past. The people take a greater interest in Settlement Welfare activities and are more inclined to do things for themselves. The Settlement working group of the Red Cross Society was very active establishing a reading and recreation room and sports facilities. These activities were financed in large measure by the people themselves with only minimal material assistance from the local branch.

The Chinese inmates operated their own Chung Hwa Club. In the beginning this organisation endeavoured to exercise administrative authority over all Chinese in the Settlement, but, after some trouble, it has settled down to be a purely social organisation.

The Kuching Rotary Club and the Chinese Associations continued to take an interest in the Settlement and provided amenities and gifts to the inmates.

It can be said that during the year Settlement affairs progressed satisfactorily and that standards of care and medical treatment were maintained.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

This is based on the Quarantine Rules, 1932, which are inadequate in scope and not in accord with recent international conventions. New rules will be enacted in 1951. Kuching, Sarikei and Miri are first ports of call for vessels from overseas. Health inspectors are stationed in each of these places and routine formalities are conducted by them but medical officers are available when necessary.

No infected vessels entered the Colony's ports during the year.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

British Red Cross Society—Sarawak Branch.

The Branch widened the scope of its work during the year and Divisions were established in Simanggang, Betong and Miri. In Kuching and the First Division the Ambulance service operated by the Branch did excellent work. During the year 118 patients were transported from rural areas to hospital and 70 convalescents were carried out of Kuching.

All other activities including the blood transfusion service, teaching of occupational handicrafts in hospital and mental hospital, social work in Leper Settlement, etc. were well maintained.

Sibu Benevolent Society.

This active organisation continued to do most useful work in caring for destitute aged and also chronic tuberculosis cases in its Home near Sibu and its Nursing Home in Sibu. Medical supervision of the latter was provided by Government medical staff.

Missions.

There are no medical missions in the Colony, but simple outpatient treatment continued to be provided at several mission stations and, at two, inpatients were cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

Social Services.

Though Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department as such, the Government does in fact perform a considerable amount of social welfare work. Government charity votes are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers for the relief of the needy. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of Women and Girls, and administers a repatriation vote and as Protector of Labour and administers a Relief Work vote for Indians. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Settlement, now known as the Home for the Aged.

Since the formation of a Social Welfare Advisory Committee in 1948, good work has been done in advising the Government on social welfare policy and practice. During the past years a Social Welfare Council which has been established comprising representatives of all the various organisations which are interested in this kind of work, as well as of general public is functioning well. Part of its work is carried out by a locally-born probation officer, who returned during 1949 from Singapore, where he had completed a years' intensive training in Social work, both the oretical and practical is progressing steadily.

Most of the tribes in the interior of Sarawak lead a community life. The longhouse system ensures that the individual incapacitated by illness or accident cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster-parents for orphans and succour for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government on the failure of the rice harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own associations, which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Home for the Aged near Kuching. In Sibü, thanks to the efforts of a committee consisting of members of all communities, a Benevolent Society was established to which reference has been made above. This Society, aided by a grant from Government and with considerable assistance from the Roman Catholic Mission in respect of nursing staff and supervision, runs its own nursing home of the indigent and is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for orphans on a limited scale and run small hospitals and nurseries in certain out-stations. The Missions are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs, societies and youth organisations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency exists in the principal towns, and a start has been made to tackle the problem in Kuching. The Boys' Home, opened in 1948 and now under the direction of the Education Department, continues its good work of turning budding criminals into useful citizens. The boys are in no way confined.

The establishment of a Boys' Club and Hostel in August, 1949 has helped to solve some of the major problems confronting homeless youths. The Club, on the lower floor of the building, is open from noon till 8.15 p.m., and provides a radio set, pingpong tables and newspapers; outside these periods football, basket-ball and volley-ball are organised for the boys on a nearby recreation ground. The Hostel on the upper floor can accommodate up to twelve boys and is intended to provide a temporary home for youths between the ages of 14 and 20. The Warden and the Board of Management help the boys to find suitable employment.

In October, 1950, a Girls' Home was established under the management of the Salvation Army. This Home is used as a place of safety under the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance and the categories of girls who could be placed there are: mui tsais, girls who have been trafficked in, girls in need of protection whose guardians cannot be found and girls who have been victims of immoral offences and girls in moral danger, but in no case over the age of 18 years. Aged

destitute females are taken in the Home and given assistance pending the organisation of a Home for the Aged (females). So far, two Officers from the Singapore Salvation Army are in-charge and they work in close co-operation with the Protector of Women and Girls.

The Sarawak Branch of the British Red Cross Society has been doing good work during the year. The Kuching Rotary Club has also continued throughout the year its useful voluntary social services, paying regular visits to the Boys' Home, Leper Settlement, Jail and Home for the Aged, assisting disharged prisoners through its Prisoners' Aid Committee and supplying sports equipment for the Boys' Home.

It has also assisted in the provision of equipment for a children's playground and equipment at the Kuching Hospital.

CHAPTER 8.

Legislation.

While the pattern of legislation in the Colony continued along the lines of reform and amendment characteristic of previous years, one feature of the year's legislative programme was the number of amending Ordinances concerned with public security; and in fact a majority of the sixteen amending Ordinances enacted during the year were of this nature, affecting such subjects as registration of aliens, sedition and undesirable persons.

At the three meetings of the Council Negri held during the year, thirty-two Ordinances were enacted, and of those dealing with original subjects the following are possibly the most important—

The *Education Ordinance*, which repealed and replaced the previous Schools Ordinance. The power of controlling schools conferred by the latter Ordinance had been adequate in the conditions then existing, but circumstances had now emphasised the need for a wider control of schools, such as that effected by the new Ordinance.

The *Excise Ordinance*, which made provision for the levying of excise duty on goods or liquors manufactured or distilled within the Colony; this Ordinance enables effective control to be exercised over distilleries, and will make it easier to prevent illicit distillation or manufacture of dutiable goods. With this Ordinance the long history of arrack farming in the Colony came to an end.

The *War Damage Ordinance*, designed to provide machinery for the assessment of war damage claims and for the making of *ex gratia* payments in respect thereof. This Ordinance became necessary on His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agreeing to assist in the financing of a war compensation scheme in the Colony.

The *Cattle (Control) Ordinance*, designed to control the indiscriminate slaughter of cattle in the Colony, and made necessary by the existing shortage of fresh meat in the Colony, a factor encouraging the slaughter of draught animals.

The *Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance*, which provides for arrangements to be made between the Colony and territories within the British Commonwealth of Nations for the simple enforcement of Superior Court judgments under which money is payable, and obtained in one of those territories, against a person residing in another of the territories.

The *Youthful Offenders' Reception Ordinance*, designed to implement the desire of the Government of North Borneo to transfer youthful offenders sentenced to a period of detention by a Court in that Colony to the Boys' Home, Kuching, or to such other place of detention as may be established.

The *Standard Time (Amendment) Ordinance*, which altered the Standard Time for Sarawak from seven and a half hours to eight hours in advance of Greenwich Mean Time, and so put an end to certain horological difficulties formerly encountered by travellers between the Colony, Brunei, and North Borneo.

The *National Emblems (Control of Display) Ordinance*, which makes provision for the control and display in public and in schools of any national flag other than the recognised flag of any part of the Commonwealth, and of the exhibition of any national emblem, not being the emblem of any part of the Commonwealth.

The *Public Order Ordinance*, designed to prohibit the wearing of uniforms signifying association with political organisations, and the maintenance of associations of a military or similar character, and to make provision for certain other matters of assistance in the maintenance of public peace and order in the Colony.

Early in the year the legal department was augmented by the arrival in the Colony of an Assistant Attorney-General.

In spite of the substantial progress of the past four years much legislative activity is still necessary if the law of the Colony is to conform to the present needs of society; nevertheless, it must be emphasised that to deal with the legal aspects of social reform, abolish anomalies in existing law and, where possible, attain these desired ends in terms incapable of misinterpretation, is likely to put an increasingly heavy burden upon all concerned with legislation.

CHAPTER 9.

Justice, Police and Prisons.

JUSTICE.

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance, is recognized to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance.

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the Colony and of its inhabitants permit and subject to such qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

There are two hierarchies of Courts in Sarawak—those constituted under the Courts Ordinance and those constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance.

The Courts constituted under the Courts Ordinance, as modified by the later legislation, are the Supreme Court, the Circuit Courts, and the various Magistrates' Courts. The Chief Justice constitutes the Supreme Court and the work of that Court lies chiefly in the exercise of appellate and revisional jurisdiction and jurisdiction under the Matrimonial Causes Ordinance. The Circuit Courts are presided over by professional Judges and have unlimited jurisdiction in almost all matters, whether civil or criminal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal), the Court of Small Causes (civil), the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal).

The Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two

assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

The Supreme Court Library in Kuching suffered during the period of Japanese occupation. Replacements have been made and new books purchased, but the Library must still be regarded as falling a long way short of what is desired. During 1950 the Library was fortunate in obtaining from Australia a complete set of the Law Reports and an almost complete set of the English Reports. This made it possible to transfer the Law Journal Reports to Sibu for the use of the Second Circuit Judge.

Probate and Administration.

In addition to the issuing of grants of probate to the executors and trustees appointed by the wills of deceased persons, and the granting of Letters of Administration in cases of intestacies, the Registrar assumed official administration of eleven deceased persons' estates by virtue of the power vested in him by section 3 of the Administration of Estates Ordinance. The majority of these estates have during the course of the year been duly administered and the remaining assets and property after payment of the deceaseds' just debts, have been duly distributed amongst the beneficiaries entitled thereto according to law and custom.

A particularly large estate fell during the course of the year, which alone paid estate duty and interest amounting to \$29,500.00.

Lunatic Persons' Estates.

Four new lunatic persons' estates were administered by the Official Assignee. Two were landed property owners, and one was a merchant. As curator the Official Assignee took over the management of, and appointed a manager to look after and run, the business. The curator also looked after the welfare of the lunatic's family.

Bankruptcy.

Four bankruptcy petitions were filed during the year. In three cases the debtors, finding that to be a bankrupt would subject them to various disabilities imposed by the Bankruptcy Ordinance, managed to settle the petitioning creditors' claim, upon which the bankruptcy petitions were cancelled.

In one case the petition went through and the debtor duly adjudicated bankruptcy and his estate was administered by the Official Assignee.

Generally, business has been good during the year in the Colony and there was no bankruptcy purely due to failures in business.

Deeds.

There was a slight increase in the number of documents registered under the Registration of Deeds Ordinance during the year over that of 1949. These comprise mortgages, promissory notes, Powers of Attorney, agreements, etc. Thity-four Bills of Sale were registered under the Bills of Sale Ordinance.

Business Names and Limited Companies.

Sixty-five new business firms were registered under the Business Names Ordinance. The majority of these are dealers in grocerics, piece-goods and general merchandise.

One locally incorporated and twelve foreign limited liability companies were registered. These comprised seven insurance companies, three timber companies, two general merchant companies and one mining company.

Patents and Trade Marks.

Three grants of "Exclusive Privileges" were issued during the year. All of these are United Kingdom patents.

Seventeen new trade marks were registered and fifty-eight renewals of registration effected.

An opposition lodged in connection with the application for the registration of a trade mark was heard and determined by the Registrar.



Group of young Malays, Kuching.

Trusts.

In the absence of a Public Trustee in the Colony the Registrar was appointed by the Court to administer two trust estates, which would otherwise be administered by the former.

In the course of his administration the Registrar was involved in a litigation.

Court Fees, Fines, Forfeitures and Deposits.

There was a slight increase in the volume of transactions under this heading over that of last year. In addition to his normal duties, the Registrar is also responsible for the direct supervision of this section.

Money Lenders.

One new Money Lenders' Licence has been issued, and four renewals of licences effected during the year.

Seventeen trade unions were registered up to the end of the year. These comprise five wharf labourers' unions, one coffee shop employers' union, two Government employees' unions, one Chinese grocers' union and one Sarawak clerical (commercial and industrial) service union, one Kuching tin-smiths' (employees) union, one Kuching Chinese shoe-makers employees' union, one Indonesian rubber tappers' union, one Sibu carpentry workers' union and one Sibu hire motor vehicle owners' union.

The Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Ordinance is now over two years old, and the spirit and intention of trade unionism are slowly but steadily being understood and appreciated by most people.

Amendments were made during the year to the Trade Union and Trade Disputes Ordinance in order to make provision for the reference of disputes to an Arbitration Tribunal, and the inspection of accounts and documents of a trade union, etc.

POLICE.

At the beginning of the year two Chief Inspectors, one Malay and one Dayak, were promoted to gazetted rank. A new Commissioner was appointed in February and the gazetted officer strength was increased later in the year by three more officers on transfer from other colonial territories. The gazetted officer establishment was increased during the year by seven, bringing it to seventeen, and, at the end of 1950, there were still three vacancies.

There were also at the end of the year 17 Inspectors, 8 Sub-Inspectors and 994 NCOs and other ranks. The Force, including Gazetted Officers, was 161 below establishment at the end of the year which is an increase of 104 over the deficiency at the end of 1949. This is mainly due to an increase in the number of resignations. Many of the men are on three-year agreements and are free to resign at the end of that period. The high wages at present available in the booming local industries discourage men from renewing their agreements. There has been a great drop in the number of men discharged for inefficiency. This may be accounted for by the fact that a higher standard of intelligence has been demanded from candidates for the Constabulary and this despite the shortage of material for enrolment.

The racial composition of the Force was :—

<i>Race.</i>			<i>Percentage.</i>
European	...	...	1.28
Malay	...	...	45
Sea Dayak (Iban)	...	...	30
Land Dayak	...	...	8
Melanau	...	...	8
Murut	...	...	.29
Dusun	...	...	.09
Kenyah	...	...	.29
Kayan	...	...	.29
Sikh	...	...	3
Punjabi	...	...	.09
Javanese	...	...	1.18
Chinese	...	...	2
Filipino	...	...	.49

Few suitable candidates have been offering themselves for enlistment and those who did come forward during the year were mainly illiterate or physically below standard. Commercial firms pay much higher salaries than Government can afford, and the local rubber, pepper and sago industries hold out opportunities of higher profits. These circumstances explain the temporary unpopularity of the Constabulary as a career. It is hoped to remedy this situation by new Constabulary Regulations which contain a revised salary scheme for all ranks from Inspectors to Recruits. New Schemes of Service for all ranks have also been compiled and submitted to Government.

Figures showing the intake and output of recruits during the year are :—

Recruits under training, 1-1-50 ...	134
Recruits enlisted during the year ...	65
Recruits transferred to Sectors during the year	51
Recruits discharged as unlikely to become efficient ...	12
Recruits under training, 31-12-50 ...	101

There were 101 recruits under training in the Depot at the end of the year. The normal course of training takes one year, but, owing to illiteracy amongst recruits on joining, the actual training period is longer in some cases.

The standard of education of members of the Sarawak Constabulary is low compared to that of Forces in neighbouring Colonies. This is to be attributed to the general lack of interest in education in the past. Many of the recruits are illiterate or only semi-literate on joining, and instruction in reading and writing Romanized Malay has to be included in their training curriculum. This slows up their progress considerably, especially in cases where Malay is not the mother tongue.

Government have approved the employment of a number of part-time teachers of English at the main centres. It is hoped that English will become in time the *lingua franca* of the Constabulary. This is especially desirable in view of the diversity of languages spoken in the Constabulary and amongst the people generally.

Steps are being taken to ensure that members of all ranks are given opportunities of further study and training throughout their service. One Inspector and a Constable Instructor completed a three months' course at the Police Training School, Singapore, during 1950, and, when the staffing position has eased, refresher courses for all N.C.Os., including Depot Instructors, will be held regularly at the Depot, Kuching. As a preliminary to the institution of regular post-training study courses for Inspectors, facilities for instruction in higher English were made available to Inspectors at H.Q., and Kuching Central during the year, the lessons being given on a voluntary basis. All Gazetted Officers proceeding to the United Kingdom will in future be nominated for courses at

various police centres. The recently-promoted Dayak Officer has been nominated for a course at the Police College, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, in 1951.

A reading room for members of the Inspectors and the Rank and File has recently been opened at the Depot, Kuching.

Examinations.

Two Inspectors were permitted to sit for the Senior Service Law Examination during 1950, and one passed. One Inspector, two N.C.Os., and one Constable passed the Senior Departmental Examination in Law and Police Duties during the year. The new schemes of service, which are under consideration by Government, set a higher and more varied standard for all examinations.

Constabulary training in Sarawak, British North Borneo, and Brunei State is, as far as possible, being conducted on uniform lines. It is hoped that the Brunei State Police will eventually be trained at Constabulary HQ., Kuching.

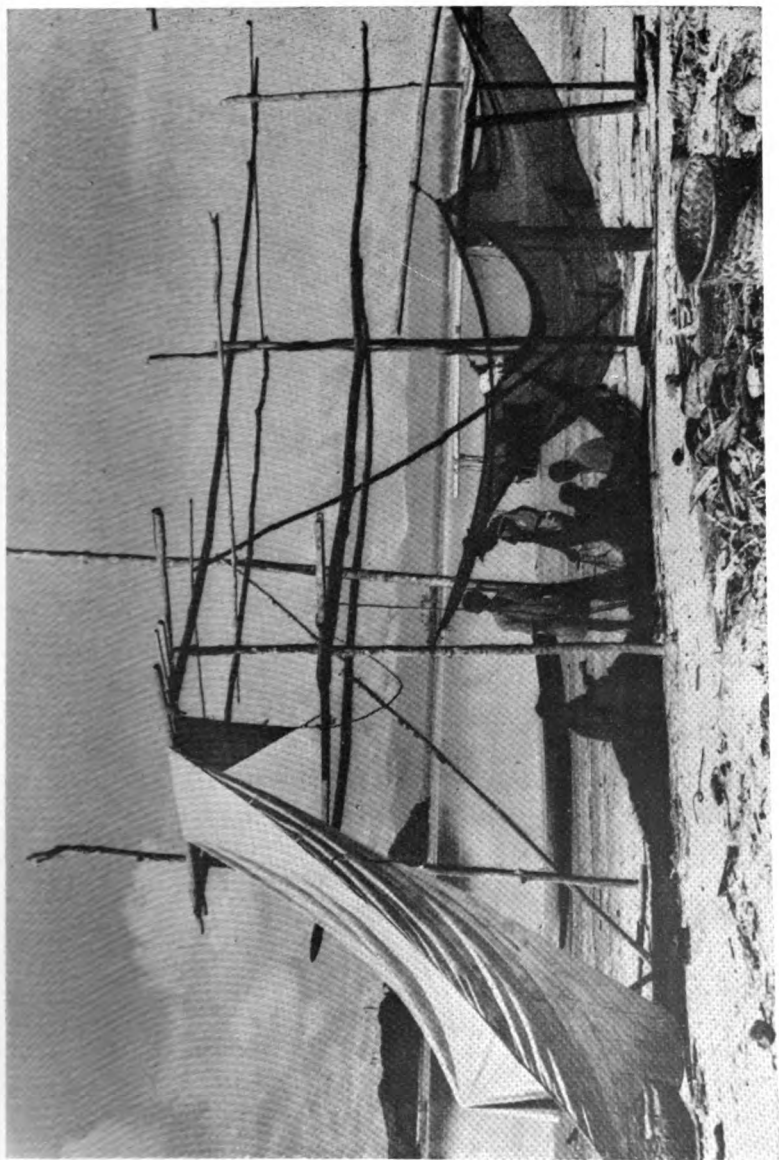
During the year, increased attention was given to welfare matters. Welfare committees for Inspectors and members of the Rank and File were established about mid-year, and they have proved useful media for the introduction of improvements and the clearing up of possible causes of misunderstanding.

In some places, Constabulary canteen arrangements were taken over from the contractors by the men themselves and are now being run on satisfactory lines.

The catering for the recruits at the Depot, Kuching, is now in the hands of the Depot staff, and the recruits are being given excellent food at a minimum cost. As a result, the morale and health of the recruits at the Depot is noticeably higher.

The Constabulary Co-operative Thrift and Loan Society increased its membership to four hundred and forty-four and it grows in popularity.

At the end of 1950, the first Constabulary Co-operative Store was opened at the Constabulary Depot, Kuching, for the benefit of Kuching, HQ., and Depot staff. The membership is now 302. The store has enabled the men to buy essential foodstuffs at more reasonable prices than those demanded in



Drying fishing nets at Santubong at the mouth of the Sarawak River.



the bazaar : this is most important at a time of rapidly rising prices. The store facilities will be extended to other Sectors when success in Kuching has been assured.

Health and Discipline.

The health of the Force was satisfactory during 1950. Absences from duty on medical grounds were not abnormal and were mainly caused by minor ailments. The total number of admissions to hospital was 203 as compared with 187 in 1949, and the total number of men/days spent in hospital was 2,051 as compared with 1,829.

Offences against discipline number 889 as compared with 707 in 1949. The principal offence was absence from duty, of which there were 463 cases, and of these 198 were H.Q., and Depot other ranks, being mostly recruits still undergoing training.

The Commissioner was awarded the King's Police Medal for Distinguished Service in the King's Birthday Honours List. 56 members of the Force were awarded the Colonial Police Long Service Medal.

During the year six members of the Rank and File were commended and given monetary rewards and ten were commended for their services.

Constabulary Stations.

There are 54 Constabulary Stations and posts in the Colony. Many of these are situated in places where communications are difficult. The ratio of policemen to population is 1:472.

For administrative purposes the Force is divided into the following Sectors :—

Kuching Sector comprising the area of the First Administrative Division, i.e. an area of about 3,448 square miles;

Simanggang Sector covering the area of the Second Administrative Division, i.e. about 4,028 square miles;

Sibu Sector comprising the whole of the Third Administrative Division, an area of about 22,838 square miles;

Miri Sector which comprises the area of the Fourth and Fifth Administrative Divisions, i.e. about 16,757 square miles, and which includes part of the Oilfields area.

The Constabulary Depot at Kuching.

The Simanggang Sector, which was formed during the year, was formerly part of the Kuching Sector. The break-up of the latter has resulted in more effective control of the new Sector.

Sibu Sector will shortly be divided into the Sibu and Sarikei Sectors. Under present arrangements, control from Sibu Headquarters is difficult.

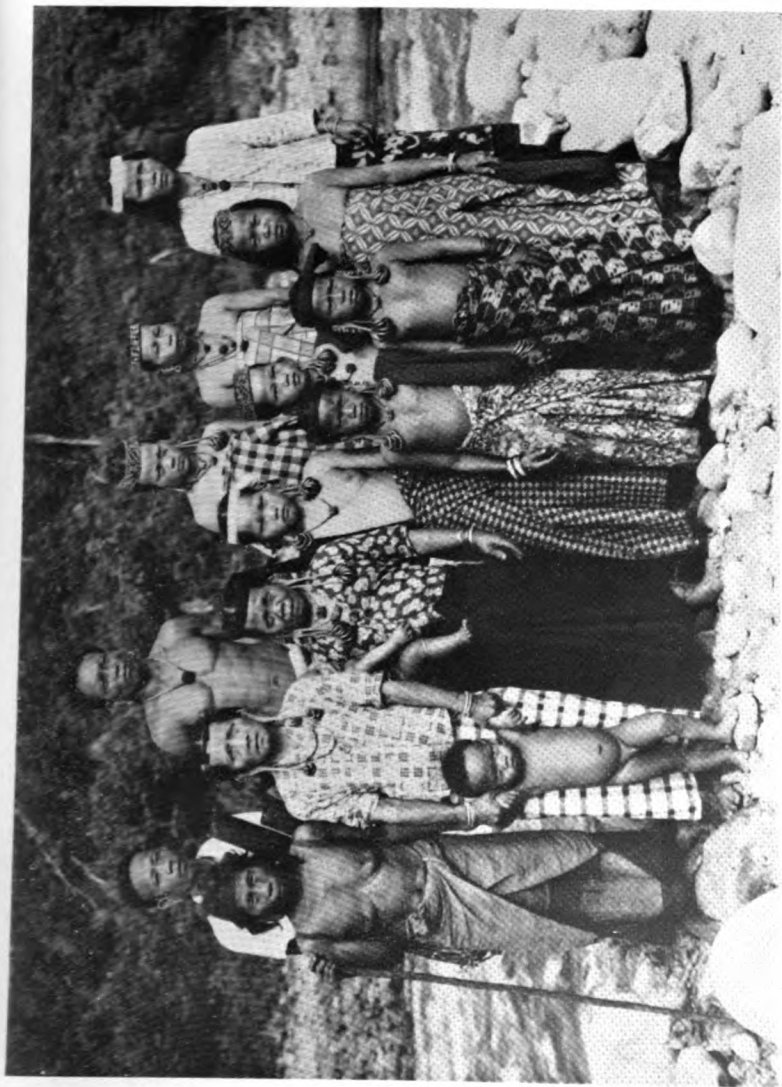
Within the framework of the Headquarters Organisation are: Special Branch, Records Office, Criminal Investigation Department, and Criminal Registry; Stores; Financial Section.

The Special Branch developed its work throughout the year and in November a sub-branch was established at Kuala Belait in the State of Brunei to deal with Special Branch activities in Brunei State and Northern Sarawak.

A new Unit, the Marine and Radio Branch, was formed during the year. For the time being, it comes under the direct control of Headquarters. The branch is in its infancy. By the end of the year eleven VHF sets, three HF sets and six HF pedal-generator had been taken on charge. The Radio Control Room is at Fort Margherita, Kuching. A visit from a Home Office telecommunications expert was expected at the end of the year. The first police launch, the nucleus of a Constabulary marine fleet, was taken into commission during the year.

The Special Constabulary continued to receive training in the main centres of the Colony and at the end of the year its total strength was 295 all ranks.

The Band, which consists of 25 men under a European bandmaster, has continued its regular performances in the Museum Gardens which continued to be well attended by members of the public. It has also attended all Guards of Honour mounted. For the first time since the re-occupation it toured the main centres of the Colony during the year and also attended at regattas and public functions in various parts of the territory. In December it gave its first classical concert in Kuching in aid of the Red Cross.



A group of Kenyans from Long Tebangan on the upper Akar River, Fourth Division. The Kenyans are bead workers and canoe specialists.

Buildings.

Owing to high building costs and the difficulty of obtaining labour it has become necessary to restrict the rate of erection of much-needed police accommodation. The original Constabulary building programme was based on a three-year plan, but it will now take considerably longer.

Six new houses for Inspectors are in course of construction, and married quarters and stations in the northern part of the territory are comparatively new.

Efforts will be made to replace dilapidated buildings in other areas as soon as economic conditions permit.

A new scheme drawn up in 1949 whereby the number of police stations was to be reduced was dropped.

In 1950 the position in regard to equipment for the Force improved considerably. A quantity of No. 5 rifles was taken on charge to replace unserviceable weapons; steps were taken to increase the number of steel helmets, respirators and riot equipment generally; clothing supplies were built up and it was possible to issue complete new sets of uniform to the regular Constabulary. As there are few roads in the Colony, motor transport is limited. This consists of Land-Rovers, Jeeps, a van, a 12 seater bus and a number of motor cycles. Selected members of the Constabulary were undergoing instruction in the care and maintenance of motor transport with the Sarawak Oilfields Limited at the end of the year. 28 new bicycles were received and distributed during the year.

Security.

During the year a Constabulary Officer was detailed for duty as Constabulary Defence and Security Officer; his responsibilities are the protection of important persons and Constabulary security arrangements generally. Security checks throughout the Colony were organized and approximately 117,000 persons were examined. 43 persons were charged in Court under the Aliens Ordinance or the National Registration Laws as a result of the checks.

A Riot Manual containing detailed instructions for dealing with civil disturbances was drawn up and submitted to Government.

Close liaison in security matters has been maintained with neighbouring territories.

Crime.

During 1950 Sarawak was comparatively free from crime. Total reports of seizable cases were 1,117, compared with 1,232 for 1949, and total convictions were 393 as against 496. There were 9 murders, compared with 8 in previous year. The principal offences continued to be those against property and comparative figures are given below :—

<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Reports.</i>	<i>Convictions.</i>	<i>Ratio of reports to convictions.</i>
Theft and Theft in dwelling	1946	1,653	252	1 to 6.32
	1947	1,036	258	1 to 4.01
	1948	879	259	1 to 3.39
	1949	750	232	1 to 3.23
	1950	720	209	1 to 3.44
House-breaking	1946	97	13	1 to 7.46
	1947	82	24	1 to 3.41
	1948	114	25	1 to 4.56
	1949	74	11	1 to 6.72
	1950	69	15	1 to 4.60

In 16 cases, as compared with 7 in 1949 the property, the subject of theft or theft in a dwelling, was of a value exceeding \$500. 287 reports were in connection with property with \$25 or less. Non-seizable offences under the Penal Code and other Laws were 2,855 as compared with 3,826 in 1949.

PRISONS.

The Prisons Department in the Colony of Sarawak consists of a Central Prison at Kuching, one female prison at Bau, three divisional prisons situated at Simanggang, Sibu and Bintulu and ten small outstation prisons. The remainder, as mentioned in last year's report, have been converted into lock-ups or other Government buildings. The headquarters offices are situated in the Kuching Prison.

The department is administered by a Superintendent, who at present combines this duty with the running of the Kuching Prison, and who is assisted by an Assistant Superintendent.



Malay dancing by students of Batu Lintang Training Centre.



District Officers are appointed as Deputy Superintendents by the Chief Secretary to supervise and run the various outstation prisons.

Administration of the Prisons has been generally satisfactory. The warders who were sent to Singapore for training during 1949 have been of assistance in maintaining a higher sense of discipline and efficiency among the other warders. The Prison establishment has been up to strength for only a few months. With the increased cost of living and the high price of rubber, several have left to earn better wages elsewhere. There has been a steady decrease in the prison population of all prisons in the Colony.

There is still far too little public interest shown in penal administration and prisoners' after-care. Far more co-operation from the general public is necessary to assist both in voluntary classes and after-care work.

All prisons are visited monthly by Visiting Boards comprised of magistrates and members of the various communities. Prisons' complaints and requests are dealt with by this committee. A Prisoners' Aid Committee has now been formed by Government, and the Kuching Rotary International assist greatly in this matter and in the rehabilitation of prisoners from the Kuching Prison on discharge. The Prison authorities endeavour to assist in obtaining work for prisoners on discharge.

During the course of the year two additional trade parties were established and the revenue for the year reached the figure of \$21,923.11. Prison made bricks are now used for the construction of all Government buildings. Carpenters are making Government furniture and the new tailors' shop has undertaken the contract for Constabulary uniforms and uniforms for other Government departments.

The majority of prisoners appear to have been happy and contented. The prison diet was altered slightly during the year, reducing a prisoner's rice ration by two tahils daily and substituting a banana; this has proved beneficial. There have been no complaints from prisoners regarding diet.

Condemned cells and the drop were completed early in January and a new block of warders' barracks was built at Kuching Prison during the year. This latter has assisted in dealing with the housing problem, but is still far from adequate to house the staff.

A guard house was erected outside the main gate of the Kuching Prison and enables closer check on traffic and on all person entering and leaving the prison.

Perimeter lights around the Kuching Prison were installed during the year and have assisted greatly in security.

Since the beginning of the year a monthly cinema show has been given to prisoners by the Information Office. This has proved a great success.

CHAPTER 10.

Public Utilities and Public Works.

Electricity Supply.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited is responsible for the lighting and power services throughout the Colony. This Company was formed in 1932 to take over the Government supply stations at Kuching, Sibu and Mukah. Government holds the majority of shares, Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore being the other shareholders and General Managers. Since taking over, the policy of the Company has been a progressive one of modernising the existing stations and installing generating plant in the smaller townships.

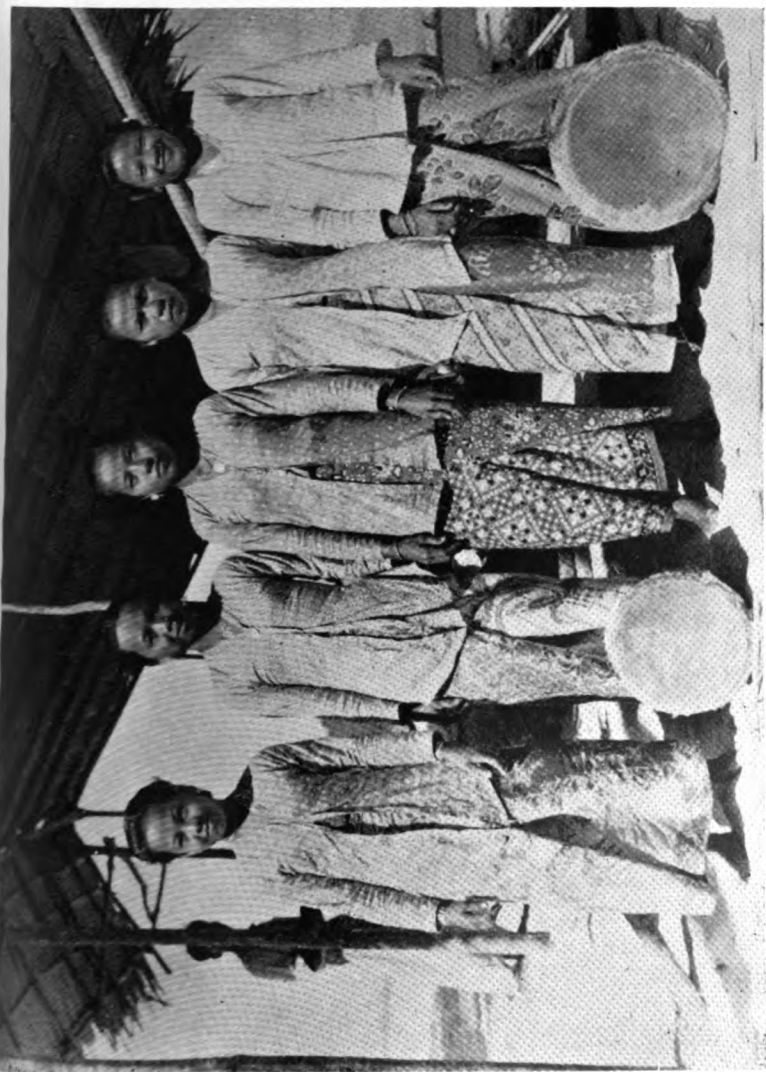
At the time of the Japanese occupation in 1941 the Company was operating generating stations at Kuching, Sibu, Mukah, Sarikei Binatang, Simanggang and Bintulu, all of which were powered by diesel plant and were supplying lighting at a charge to the consumer of 20 cents per unit. In Kuching the Company also operated an ice factory, the ice being retailed to the public at one cent per pound. When the country was re-occupied by the Allies it was found that two generating sets in Kuching had been removed, the Mukah and Bintulu Stations almost destroyed and the remaining plant was in a very bad condition due to neglect and lack of maintenance.

During 1945-46 the Company was busily engaged on the work of rehabilitating these stations and maintaining a gradually improving standard of supply to the public. Plans were made for extensions of service and orders were placed for plant and materials. Owing to increasing costs of fuel, wages and materials it was found necessary to increase the rates of current by means of a 50% surcharge on pre-war charges. The Company's policy has been to reduce this surcharge as soon as conditions would permit, but it was not possible to do this until January 1st, 1948, when surcharge was discontinued and a revised rate of 27½ cents per unit for lighting came into effect.

Owing to the tardy delivery of materials and machinery, work on rehabilitation and extensions has been slow. During 1948 the rehabilitation of Mukah and Bintulu Stations was completed and these are now giving a 12 hour supply daily. In the same year a new station at Betong commenced operation. These stations are 25/50 K.W. capacity only and are primarily for lighting the respective townships. On completion of the change over from D.C. to A.C. at Sibu, additional generating equipment will be available for Binatang, Simanggang and Betong stations.

At Miri the lighting supply prior to the war was taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited plant. During the occupation the Japanese had installed a plant at Miri, which they had removed from Jesselton. This was found to be in very bad condition, but a service had been maintained by Government, with difficulty, until 1947, when the plant was reclaimed by the owners. After negotiations with Government and the Sarawak Oilfields Limited, the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company installed equipment at Miri and commenced the supply of a restricted service in December, 1947. The maximum demand at this station is about 84 K.W. and as output is only 75 K.W. it is necessary to restrict supply nightly. Plans are in hand for improvement of this supply. For reasons of economy and due to the long delays in delivery it is proposed in the first instance to extend the existing D.C. supply by removing and re-erecting the two 100 K.W. D.C. generators now no longer required in Kuching. There is also a proposal to put on order two alternators, to be driven by V. belt, in place of the D.C. generators. It is not, however, expected that the change over to A.C. can be made for two years. In the meantime the supply position in Miri is unsatisfactory, the present plant being inadequate for the increasing demand. A 24 hour supply was given as from the middle of June.

During 1947 a new 140 K.W. A.C. generating set was ordered for the Sibu station. A section of the town was changed over to A.C. in June, 1949, but the new set did not arrive until later in the year. Installation was, however, completed in December, 1949, and two new 25 K.W. A.C. sets were put into commission in June, 1950. At the end of 1950 the peak load was 90 K.W. A.C. and 91.5 K.W. D.C. The final change over from D.C. to A.C. is not expected to be completed until towards the end of 1951.



Five Selakan Land Dayak girls visiting the Talang Talang Islands for the "Semah" fertility rites, 1950. The Selakans are a special group of Land Dayaks living in the south-west corner of Sarawak.

In Kuching the new 400 K. W. set, partly erected in 1947 was still awaiting further engine parts at the end of 1949. These parts finally arrived early in 1950 and the plant was put on load for the first time in the beginning of May. The new supercharger for the 468 K.V.A. set arrived and was fitted in January, 1950, with a consequent considerable increase in output. It was thus possible to discontinue all load shedding as from the middle of January and a full supply was maintained throughout the year.

Owing to increases in the price of fuel oil it became necessary to increase the price for lighting and fans from $27\frac{1}{2}$ cents per unit to 30 cents per unit as from June 1st, 1950.

The maximum demand on the Kuching station for the year was 733.2 K.W. A.C. and 30.8 K.W. D.C. in December. The total units generated were 2,354,422 as compared with 2,193,892 or an increase of 6.84%.

Direct current supplies at Bintulu, Mukah, Binatang, Sarikei, Betong and Simanggang were maintained throughout the year.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company also operates an Ice Factory in Kuching. In April a new plant was installed which gives an output of 4 tons per day, making a total output available of 8 tons per day. There has been a considerable increase in the public demand. This demand is, however, a fluctuating one and the Company proposes in the first place to increase the cold storage space for ice.

Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works.

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works, Kuching, is a publicly owned Establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management and carries a staff of 43 permanent employees with a European Manager in charge.

The drydock opened during the year 1912 is 240 feet in length, 40 feet wide at the entrance and vessels up to 9 feet draft can be docked at spring tides. The dock entrance is closed by a steel caisson operated by the rise and fall of the tide, with pumping machinery to deal with water below the tide level.

A steam driven jib crane with a lifting capacity limited to 5 tons is installed at the dock wharf.

Adjacent to the drydock is a slipway constructed for launches up to 40 feet in length and 13 feet beam.

The machine shop is equipped with electric and oxyacetylene welding apparatus, small brass melting furnace and a range of machine tools suitable for general mechanical engineering repairs comprising maintenance to hulls and machinery of local vessels, Public Works Plant, factory equipment and other utilities requiring mechanical engineering service.

The machine tools are fitted with individual drives from alternating current motors using current from the town supply.

During the year ending December 31st, 1950, 48 vessels were drydocked and 14 launches slipped for repairs.

Water Supplies.

Kuching.

The source of supply is at Matang, a mountain of 3,000 feet, about ten miles west of Kuching. The catchment area is a Waterworks Reserve. The quality of the water is excellent and it is not treated in any way. The collection system consists of diversion dams in four foundation streams and one small impounding reservoir. The dams are at a suitable height to give a gravitational supply to Kuching. The mountain rises abruptly from the coastal plain and investigations over a period of many years have failed to locate a site for a large impounding reservoir at the required contour level. The water is collected and brought to Kuching through three quarters of a mile of open channel, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 9" pipe, three quarters of a mile of 12" pipe, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 14" pipe and 5 miles of 16" pipe. The pipeline crosses the Sarawak River on a 700 foot span suspension bridge which was erected for this purpose. During heavy rain the control valves at the diversion dams are closed and the water supply is taken from the impounding reservoir and the service reservoirs in Kuching.

The distribution system consists of thirty miles of pipe varying in size from 3" to 9" diameter. The service reservoirs consist of one 2 million gallon pressed steel tank, two concrete service basins and one reinforced concrete water tower. There are also two old reservoirs in the town which are at too low a level to be used with the present system except by pumping.

The number of services connected to the system is approximately 2,631 and all private services are metered. The charge for water is 45 cents per thousand gallons with a



Excavating in the Bungoh caves at Bau, a neolithic type shell heap.



minimum charge of \$1 per month. The smallest size of meter is provided free and there is a small rent for the larger sizes.

Since the war the increase in population, and the poor state of the service pipes and meters resulted in an increased consumption. It has been necessary to curtail the supply to certain parts of the town for a few hours per day throughout the year. Nevertheless the consumption during 1950 averaged 1,195,342 gallons per day. Work on the replacement of defective services and the overhaul of meters has progressed so far as supplies have permitted, but there still remains much to be done.

The main pipeline from Matang was due for replacement before the war owing to severe corrosion of the steel pipe. The first consignment of 3 miles of 15" Class D cast iron pipes arrived during 1948 and the balance delivered in 1949-50. Laying of these pipes commenced in May and 868 lengths were laid during the year making a total length of about 3½ miles. The replacement of this pipeline will give an improved supply except during period of draught but the increasing demand necessitates provision of an additional supply. Surveys in connection with this have been carried out during the year.

During 1948 the sub-fluvial pipe at Padungan was relaid (1,100 feet of 4" galvanised steel pipe) and the pipeline along Batu Lintang road was extended as far as Rock Road. (1,200 feet of 6" cast iron pipes). During 1949 the sub-fluvial pipe at Thompson road was relaid (860 feet of 4" galvanised steel pipe) and an additional distribution main was laid to the Padungan area (1,070 feet of 9" cast iron pipe). Replacement of the old emergency pump and pump house at the lower reservoirs was completed during the year.

Work was begun in February on the preparation of the site for the construction of an additional pressed steel storage tank (1,600,000 gallons capacity). The tank has been delivered and the concrete foundations were nearing completion at the end of the year in readiness for erection in March, 1951.

Simunjan and Bau.

Gravity water supplies exist at Simunjan and Bau, the water being of good quality, but the mains and distribution pipes are extremely badly corroded and the supplies are inadequate and unsatisfactory. Schemes for the renovation of these supplies are in preparation and financial provision for putting the work in hand is being made.

Sibu.

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation at the beginning of 1947 in Sibu. The operation involves pumping by centrifugal pumps from the Rejang river to a purification plant and the pumping of the purified water to storage tanks approximately 90 feet above the level of Sibu town, thence by gravity $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to Sibu bazaar, with branch and booster station for the supply of outlying districts.

The number of services increased during the year by 23% from 475 to 584. If this rate of increase is maintained for another year the present waterworks will be too small; advantage has, therefore, been taken of the proposed change-over by the Electrical Company to A.C. to allow for the installation of more powerful electric motors which are calculated to increase the output of water by 40%.

Mukah.

The entire water installation including pumps, motors, piping and tanks was removed by the Japanese.

Financial limitations precluded anything more than a start being made on the new waterworks at Mukah, but $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles of roadway were completed to form access to the pumping station and also to provide support for the pumping main. The deviation of the electric main was completed during the year and orders placed for some of the pipe mains and for the electric motors and pumps. They are expected in 1951.

The scheme envisages pumping from the Petanak river, chemical precipitation and sedimentation, filtration, chlorination and gravity supply as at Sibu but on a smaller scale. A feature of the scheme is the wide use of asbestos cement pipes to obviate deterioration by corrosion found to be so bad at Mukah in the pre-war waterworks.

Sarikei, Binatang and Tanjong Mani.

The towns of Sarikei and Binatang and ships calling at Tanjong Mani are supplied by the use of a water barge of 36,000 gallons capacity, transporting water during the dry months from Sibu. As in 1949, 1950 was a wet year and the amount of water supplied to Sarikei and Binatang was substantially the same as last year, but the amount supplied to ships at Tanjong Mani increased to 1,950 tons.



A Malay couple, Kuching.

Miri.

The water supply is taken from the Sarawak Oilfields Limited water mains under the pre-war arrangements. A subsidiary pump has been installed to supply Government Quarters at Tanjong Lobang and Brighton.

Bintulu.

The Bintulu water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to a 50,000 gallon tank in the town. A further $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos pipe acts as a distributing main. The water is of very good quality and requires no purification.

Limbang.

A limited gravity supply of good water is available at Limbang.

Public Works.

In Kuching a new reinforced concrete building for the Government Printing Office was begun and is expected to be completed during the first half of 1951. Plans for the proposed new Customs Import warehouse were prepared and orders placed for the steel framework. No construction work has yet started owing to unexpected delays in delivery and information has now been received that delivery cannot be expected in the near future.

As in 1949 the building programme was mainly the construction of quarters, police barracks, warders barracks, junior and senior officers houses.

In Kuching the progress on housing was handicapped by difficulty in obtaining sufficient sites within a reasonable distance of the town and the water and lighting services. A scheme for the development of two areas, one for Junior Service quarters and one for Senior Service quarters, was eventually completed. These residential areas are situated at Batu Lintang and should be adequate for housing requirements for the next two or three years.

Blocks of barracks were completed or in progress at the Jail, Bau, Badrudin road, Po Point lighthouse, and the Airport. The average cost worked out at approximately \$2,350 per family but prices increased rapidly during the second half of the year.

Seventeen Native Officers and Junior Service quarters were either completed or in progress in Kuching, Bau, Tebakang and Serian. At Tebakang, a new Government Office with quarters was nearing completion.

Additions and alterations were made to the kitchens, lecture rooms and children's ward at the General Hospital.

Three Senior Service quarters were completed and blocks of six single storey flats begun.

Junior Service Quarters were built at Simanggang, Engkilili, Betong, Debak and Saratok and barracks at Simanggang. At Kabong extensive repairs and renovations were made to station buildings.

A 120 ft. high lighthouse on a steel tower was erected at Tanjong Sirik during the year on behalf of the Marine Department. A wharf, enginehouse, and two quarters for lighthouse keepers were also completed.

A total of 31 Junior Service Quarters, 5 Police Barracks, one Native Officers Quarters, two Senior Service bungalows, one Senior Service Visiting quarters and one Wireless Station were either completed or under construction.

A new Market was built at Sarikei.

The following additions to the Sibu Hospital were put in hand:—one Nurses quarters, one Mental Ward, two blocks latrines, and extension to kitchen. It had been intended also to construct an Outpatients Department and Tuberculosis Ward but tendered prices proved too high and these works were deferred.

The Sibu Rest House was completed early in the year.

Work on the new Miri Bazaar has made very good progress. The first two shophouses were occupied during the month of February and by the end of the year 53 shophouses were completed and 17 in progress.

The construction of the new Government Offices at Miri was started late in October. All Government departments with the exception of Customs, Police and P.W.D. will be housed in this building. A P.W.D. office, garage and workshop was started during the year and it is proposed to commence construction of the Police Station in 1951.

Six police barracks were built at Miri, also 8 Junior Service quarters and one Native Officers quarters. At Baram two Junior Service quarters and one Native Officers quarters and at Bintulu one Native Officers quarters were erected.

Building construction in the Fifth Division was as follows :—

Limbang.

- 4 Junior Service Quarters.
- 1 block barracks.
- 1 Oil store.
- 1 Padi store.
- 1 P.W.D. store.
- 1 Agricultural office.

One padi store was built at Lawas, one at Sundar and one at Ukong. A new hospital and Senior Service quarters were in progress at Lawas and at Long Semado and Bah Kelalan new forts were under construction.

Staff.

The staff position is still acute. Three engineers arrived on first appointment during the year and one left the service. One engineer was posted on secondment as assistant to the State Engineer in Brunei.

The rising costs and difficulties in obtaining materials have added to the already heavy duties of the staff but these duties have been carried out willingly and the staff is to be congratulated on the year's achievements.

CHAPTER 11.

Communications.

Water.

The rivers and the sea afford the principal means of communication, there being few roads and only one airport in the Colony.

The weekly service between Kuching and Singapore and between Rejang River and Singapore was maintained with fair punctuality by the Sarawak Steamship Company Limited. The weekly service between Miri and Singapore was run by Straits Steamship Company vessels.

The monthly service between Kuching Pending and North Borneo, calling at Miri, was maintained by the Straits Steamship Company vessel S.S. "Marudu". This service is not entirely satisfactory, there being considerable need to increase the number of calls per month at Pending. On occasion both passengers and freight have not been accepted by the vessel at Pending, although they had been accepted by the steamer's agents at Kuching.

One Kuching shipper has been asking for space to ship 40 (at least) head of buffalo from North Borneo, but because there is only one ship calling at Pending he has been unable to import any. This is regrettable as it would have a considerable effect on the economy of the country.

Coastal services have been maintained fairly regularly by the Sarawak Steamship Company vessels, "Timbali", "Ong Tiang Swee" and "Meluan". There is, however, a back log of freight piling up in most of the coastal ports especially with timber and commodities required for internal consumption. Cargo for export appears to be getting priority and the distribution of commodities required for internal construction and economic purposes has been badly disrupted. To handle the requirements of the coast a fleet of at least double the number is required. Tatau, which produces billion timber practically exclusively for Sarawak use, is a badly neglected port and there are some two or three hundred tons of timber for which shippers are crying out for shipping space.

The smaller class of coastal craft, mainly Chinese owned, are reaping a rich harvest in freight in mainly consumable commodities and returning to Kuching with exportable cargo.

A considerable number of them are tied ships i.e. sago carriers. In the main these vessels are not built or maintained to a high standard, and in consequence are beginning to suffer restrictions in passengers and cargo carrying capacity through not being up to the required survey standards. Unless some improvement in new construction and replacement of craft takes place at a fairly early date those restrictions may have serious effects. Efficiency of craft and machinery must be maintained and safety of passengers, crew and cargo assured, so there can be no question of relaxing survey standards. On the contrary, the standards required with regard to construction, strength, reliability of machinery, life saving and fire-fighting equipment, accommodation for crews and passengers will be increased.

River transport is maintained entirely by Chinese launches. The service is in the main satisfactory, but as both cargo and passengers are carried at the same time, trips of more than a few hours cannot be comfortable.

Government supply vessels have been fully employed. The "Lucille" made an approximate monthly run between Kuching and the Fifth Division via coastal ports. This vessel has suffered severe criticism with regard to the regularity of its schedule. Because of the variety of calls for her services it is virtually impossible to fix any time table. A few of the extra trips are as follows :

Special trips with six months supply of benzine for Bintulu District, to Lundu to relieve congestion of goods after bazaar had burnt down, to Simanggang to bring Ferret Force recruits and labour to Kuching, to bring urgently required rice to Brunei, and timber from Bintulu and Tatau to Sibu and Kuching.

Ocean carriers calling at Tanjong Mani are more than in 1949, at least 30 vessels calling in 1950. The Bums Philip vessels Braeside and Bumside which gave connection with Australia ceased calling at the end of the year. However, other shipping concerns have been making inquiries and it is hoped that direct sea connection between Sarawak and many distant countries may develop.

Oil Tankers calling at Miri show a considerable increase in numbers and tonnage over 1949.

The demands on Government administrative launches increased steadily during the year. New launches put into service were "Aline" at Miri, and "Jolly Bachelor" at Sibü, both sea-going; the "Rainbow", a special bar launch for Miri; and a reconditioned "Mermaid". Two launches were withdrawn from service, one W. Boat considered not reconditionable, and M.L. "Karina" which are turned over to buoys and lights service.

A new 120' open steel-work tower was erected at Tanjong Sirik, and a reliable although temporary light established. New quarters were also completed. Power houses were constructed and major repairs to quarters carried out at other lighthouses. To improve daylight navigational aids at Kuala Rejang three beacons were erected, but before the end of the year two of them had collapsed through erosion. The total progress for the year for renewal of coastal lights fell far short of that hoped for.

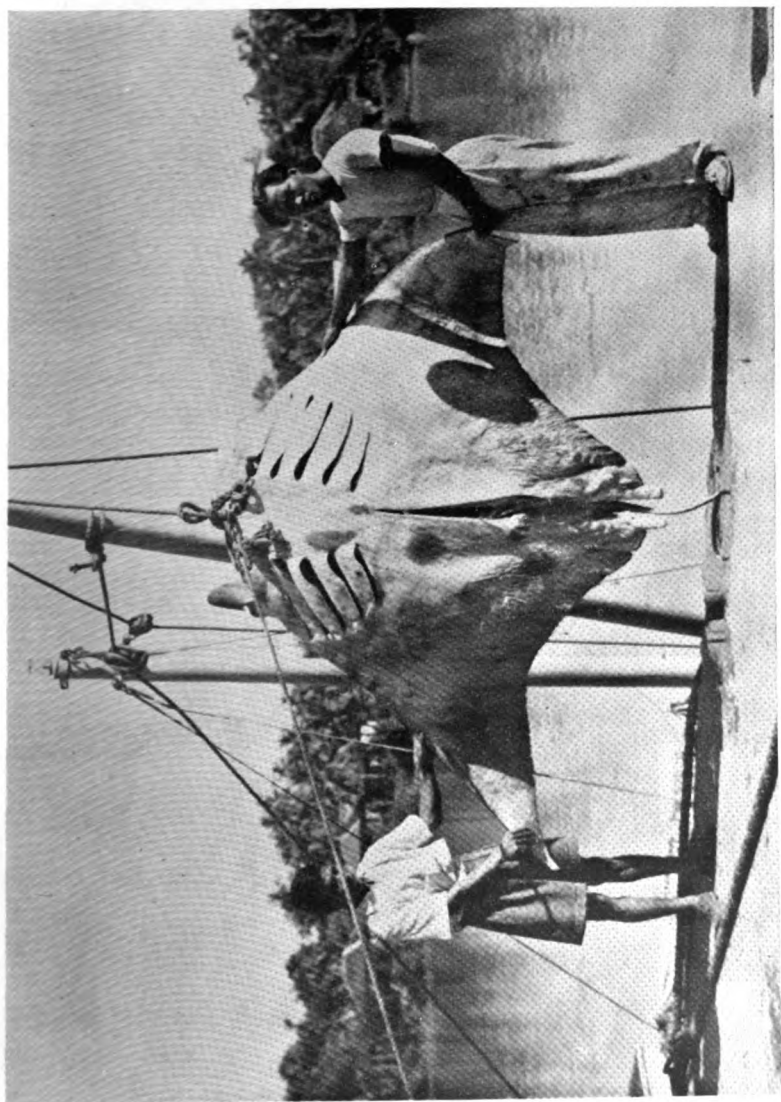
Two ships of the Royal Navy visited Sarawak during the year H.M.S. "Whitesand Bay" came to Sibü and H.M.S. "Cardigan Bay" to Kuching in March.

Twelve vessels suffered casualties, five from collisions, six from minor groundings and one from fire. Two were total losses, the others suffered various degrees of damage. There was no loss of life. Forty-eight new vessels of all classes were registered in 1950.

Air.

Before the Japanese occupation two landing grounds existed which were suitable for the operation of the lighter types of aircraft. These were situated at Miri and Kuching.

On the resumption of Civil Administration the Kuching landing ground, which lies 7 miles to the South of the town, had one metalled strip of approximately 1,000 yards length and 50 yards width, in almost serviceable condition. The remainder of this area was dotted with bomb craters and was, therefore, quite unserviceable. A minimum of work sufficient to maintain this strip to 1,016 yards in length and 35 yards width was carried out pending a decision regarding the construction of a suitable airport for present day requirements. During 1947 investigations were made for the realignment of the runway in order to provide a minimum length of 1,200 yards, and a preliminary estimate was made. This project



Rear view of a giant ray.

was, however, later abandoned as the approaches were considered to be unsatisfactory for modern aircraft, and the proposed 1,200 yard runway could not have been extended at reasonable cost at a later date. A search had, therefore, to be made for a suitable site elsewhere, which was found in jungle country less than 1 mile to the North of the existing runway. Here there were no approach obstructions, comparatively little earthwork was anticipated and there were possibilities for extension to over 2,000 yards. In 1948 approval of a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund was given and work was put in hand on this project.

Progress in the construction of this new airport was disappointing during 1948 due to unusually heavy rainfall and unreliable equipment. Late in December the opportunity of acquiring some new equipment was taken and two new bulldozers and scrapers were delivered. By the end of 1949 good progress had been made in spite of delays in obtaining spare parts for machinery and other materials.

The new Airport is designed to provide an all weather asphalt macadam surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide. Consolidated grass surfaced safety verges 75 yards wide are to be provided on each side of the runway and at each end of the runway a consolidated grass surfaced overrun 200 yards in length is being constructed. An asphalt macadam taxiway to an apron of similar construction is provided adjacent to the airport building. The building provides for control tower, signals room, meteorological office, waiting and refreshment room, office, customs, immigration and health accommodation. Work progressed satisfactorily during the year under review and on September 26th His Excellency the Governor formally opened the new Airport. Since this date schedule services have been maintained without interruption.

Malayan Airways Limited, operating twice-weekly through Kuching on the Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore route, proved insufficient to cope with increasing traffic; and during May, 1950, an additional weekly schedule, Singapore-Kuching-Singapore, was instituted. This service was maintained until 14th July when traffic requirements over the remainder of the Borneo route justified extension to Sandakan, thereby establishing three schedules weekly through Kuching, Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore.

During 1950 a total of 270 landings were effected by Malayan Airways Limited. Two of these were made at night, utilizing portable emergency-flarepath facilities. Throughout the year they have landed 909 passengers in Kuching, uplifted 944, and carried 1,667 in transit.

Kuching has, in the past—chiefly by reason of Malayan Airways Limited utilization of this type of aircraft—been almost entirely connected with DC3 operations. Classification of the new airport according to ICAO specifications, however, establishes it in category E5 with a runway bearing capacity of 30,000 pounds per single isolated wheel load, thereby permitting operation of much heavier machines. In addition, Kuching Airport has been organized and equipped in accordance with the terms of Articles 5 and 8 of the 1944 International Sanitary Convention of Aerial Navigation, and also conforms to the requirements of Article I (ii) of the same Convention. The World Health Organization has accordingly been requested to confirm this airport as an “Authorized Aerodrome”, or “Sanitary Aerodrome”, and “as constituting a local area”. Such classifications will, therefore, justify designation of Kuching as an International Airport.

Development and operation of Navigational, Approach, and Landing facilities covering Sarawak territory and Kuching Airport was undertaken on a three-year contractual basis by International Aeradio Limited. Despite unavoidable delays in manufacture and shipment of radio equipment progress had been very encouraging. Throughout the year under review Kuching Airport has provided Approach and Aerodrome Control facilities on two VHF and one HF radio-telephone channels, VHF Direction-Finding for homing aircraft to the Airport, one W/T channel guarding the aircraft “enroute” communication frequency, and Point-to-Point communications with Singapore and North Borneo. In addition, a radio-beacon operated by Posts and Telegraphs Department, Kuching, has been installed as an Approach and Let-down and also a Route Navigational facility.

It is proposed to begin work in 1951 on the reconstruction of the airfield at Sibu originally started by the Japanese and later destroyed by Allied air action. It is intended to provide a consolidated gravel surfaced runway 1,200 yards long by 50 yards wide. This will serve as an alternate to Kuching and will probably be used for schedule services.

The grass surfaced landing ground at Lutong near Miri has been maintained by the Sarawak Oilfields Limited who operate for their private use one amphibian and one land aircraft.

Railways.

Until the year 1933 a metre gauge railway carrying passengers and freight was operated by the Public Works Department between Kuching and 10 miles to the South of the town. This area was also served by a road, and consequently operational losses of the railway over such a short distance became so heavy that the passenger and freight service was closed down.

The only quarries in the Colony are situated at the 7th Mile and are dependent on the railway for economical transport of crushed stone to Kuching. The Government, therefore, continued to use the railway for the transportation of stone until the Japanese occupation. On resumption of the Civil Administration the years of neglect had rendered the three steam locomotives useless for further service and the track was left in very bad condition.

During 1949 a Ruston Hornby Diesel Locomotive arrived and mine of the old steel open trucks were put in running order. The line was cleared as far as the 7th Mile, bomb damage made good, and damaged sleepers replaced. It is now possible to bring equipment by rail to the new airfield and bring back stone from the quarries to Kuching.

Roads and Vehicles.

The main method of transportation in Sarawak, both for passengers and freight, is by inland water and coastal routes. Kuching, Sibü and Miri have a small network of roads with earth roads branching to outlying agricultural, rubber and forest districts but there are no connecting trunk roads.

There is a road from Kuching to Serian, 40 miles in length, which will ultimately become part of the main trunk route to Simanggang and thence to Sibü. Twelve miles of this road has a bitumen macadam all weather surface, twenty miles is a rough waterbound macadam and the remaining 8 miles is unsurfaced. Work is in progress on a scheme to complete the surfacing of this road and construct the new road section of approximately 90 miles from Serian to Simang-

gang. This scheme is financed by a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. Throughout 1950 a detailed engineering survey of the new section has been in progress and it is expected that this survey will be completed during the first half of 1951 and the construction commenced of the first section from Serian to the Sadong river crossing including the bridge.

The year has been notable for the adverse effect of the rubber and pepper boom on road construction and maintenance. Labour costs have risen steeply and labour is only obtainable with difficulty, the less arduous and highly remunerative work of rubber tapping being much more attractive than the more strenuous work of jungle surveying and road construction. This has resulted in serious delays in progress and high costs.

The following is an approximate census of road miles in the Colony:—

(1) All weather, bitumen or concrete surfaced road	...	...	70 miles.
(2) Metalled roads	...	...	84 ,,
(3) Earth roads suitable for motor traffic under fair weather conditions	...	...	118 ,,
(4) Unmetalled pathways and cycle tracks	...	...	195 ,,

Kuching Roads.

Two major works were undertaken during 1950. A completely new $\frac{3}{4}$ mile section of road was constructed to connect the Pending road with Padungan road. It is 21 feet in width with an all weather bitumen macadam surface. Including the construction of two small reinforced concrete bridges the cost of this road worked out at the equivalent of \$81,000 per mile.

The reconstruction of 1 mile of Datus road was almost completed at the year end. This is a filled road through a large Malay Kampong area, subject to tidal floods. Early in the new year the laying of an all weather bitumen macadam surface on this section will be completed.

Other works included reconstruction of culverts, resurfacing, regrading and general maintenance of existing roads.



Chula, last of the Serus, a group once dominated in the Saratok district and exterminated largely by their own violence.

The construction of 10 miles of earth road from the 32nd mile Serian road to Sungei Ensengie was stopped at the 6th mile in August. This work was also being undertaken in connection with a Colonial Development and Welfare grant. The work was suspended for economic and administrative reasons.

The increase in weight and number of vehicles on the roads, the frequent and heavy rainfall and the scarcity and high cost of labour have all contributed to a serious deterioration of unsurfaced roads. Modern traffic requirements make it essential that these roads be reconstructed and provided with all weather surfaces.

There was no new road work carried out in the 2nd Division but survey gangs were working there in connection with the new Serian-Simanggang road project.

Road communications throughout the 3rd Division were not satisfactory during the year. The amount of traffic on the Sibu roads increased by 35% and an unusually wet year made conditions so bad that many of the roads had to be closed to traffic.

No new construction work was carried out and surfacing and metalling was greatly hampered by the shortage of stone and gravel. There are no quarries in the 3rd Division and stone cannot be supplied from Kuching at economical cost. Sibu and indeed most of this division is dependent therefore on the use of gravel taken from river beds. The continuous wet weather which had maintained high water levels in the river had made it necessary to go far afield for gravel. This and the rising wages has made the cost of gravel prohibitive. Special investigations are now being made for new sources of gravel supplies and stone.

During the year the construction of wide but short lengths of new bazaar roads at Miri in the 4th Division was undertaken. These formed access to the new bazaar. These roads were provided with double carriage ways each 21 feet wide with central raised islands and concrete roadside drains. A little over 60% of the new bazaar roads was completed. Here also no stone is available and crushed brick and concrete rubble was the material mainly used.

The Tanjong Lobang road in Miri has been resurfaced. This forms part of the Miri-Bulat Satap road and frequently carries vehicles of up to 20 tons.

In the 5th Division the Penduruan road in the Limbang district is the most important. It is an unsurfaced earth track about 10 miles long and carries a limited number of motor vehicles. The Limbang-Brunei road formation has been completed on a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. If this road is to be used regularly for the purpose of inter state communication it will, of course, become necessary to surface it.

Another work carried out on a Colonial Development and Welfare Grant is the reconditioning of the Lawas-Trusan road.

Vehicles and Equipment.

Much trouble was experienced during the year in maintaining the large quantities of crushed stone required from the 7th Mile quarries for the Airport runway construction, roads and buildings. This was mainly due to prolonged delays in the delivery of replacements for the stone elevating plant from the crushers which when they eventually arrived were found to be wrongly designed. The cause of this has now been traced and the matter is being rectified.

A new stone drying plant was delivered during the year and this working in conjunction with an asphalt mixing plant was put into operation towards the end of the year.

One new 2-ton truck was purchased for use in Sibü and one 3-ton truck for Miri. Two 6-ton diesel rollers were delivered for Kuching, one 3½-ton roller for Sibü, one for Limbang and one for Miri. A Commer 25 cwt. Station Waggon was supplied for the across river bus service in Kuching.

Maintenance of the ex-military trucks and jeeps continued during the year. These are now rapidly becoming unserviceable and are being replaced as and when possible.

Maintenance of tractors has been extremely difficult. This equipment has been employed mainly on Airport construction work and has been operating on very abrasive soils. The resulting wear to tracks and track parts has been serious and replacement parts have not been forthcoming; consequently the number of machines unserviceable at any time has been unusually high.



Jars containing human bones, probably of children, in country now inhabited by Sea Dayaks but previously the home of the Serus.

Posts and Telecommunications.

There are post offices at all administrative centres, and wireless telegraph stations at the more important centres and outlying stations. Where possible, outstations are linked by line telephone to the nearest administrative centre. The departmental facilities are made available to the public for private and commercial business.

There were 37 post offices in operation during 1950. The air mail service was operated by Sabah Airways Ltd. An extra service every Friday between Singapore and Kuching was introduced in May, in addition to the bi-weekly service between Singapore and Kuching and North Borneo hitherto maintained. In July this extra service was dropped and a regular thrice weekly service between Singapore and North Borneo via Kuching was begun. Air correspondence handled during the year was:

(ordinary) despatched 227,400, received 203,450;

(registered) despatched 24,936, received 13,628.

The new permanent issue of stamps of 15 denominations was on sale on January 3rd, 1950, and the Universal Postal Union commemorative stamps, which had been on sale since October 10th 1949 were withdrawn on January 9th.

The wireless telegraphy stations at Mukah and Kanowit were removed to Kubu in May and July. The external telegraph traffic handled during the year amounted to 760,338 words despatched, and 730,298 words received. Internal traffic was 2,076,528 words by Government, and 854,464 words by others. Charges for all classes of telegrams were revised in July.

Four stations were installed with new 12-line telephone switchboards. They were Mukah, Binatang, Bintulu and Betong. A new 50-line switchboard was installed at Simanggang in December, and the Lawas/Trusan/Sundar line was completed. The line from Lundu to Simatan was reconstructed.

CHAPTER 12.

Control and Development of Lands.

Organisation.

One Department is responsible for the alienation of Crown Lands to settlers, the registration of title to land including the settlement of existing rights, the cadastral survey on which title registration is based, and the collection of Land Revenue.

Except in Divisional Headquarters all Land Work is done through the District Officer who is thus enabled to supervise the settlement of Crown Lands and the development of his district. Final approval of an application and the issue of title after survey is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys in each Division to whom the application is sent if accepted by the District Officer.

In each Divisional Headquarters is the Land Registry for the Division to which is sent for registration in the Land Register the necessary attested documents for transfers, charges, and probate matters after preparation in the District Office. After registration these are returned to the parties concerned through the same channel.

Close liaison is maintained between Administrative Officers and Land and Survey Officers.

Policy.

The aim of the Land and Survey Department is to ensure that rights to land are fully investigated and then protected by registration. The manner in which rights may be acquired is controlled by the various ordinances while general policy is the responsibility of the Governor in Council.

REVIEW OF WORK FOR THE YEAR.

Applications for new land.

Applications for Crown Land for various purposes during the year amounted to a total of 32,669 acres from 6,399 applicants, as compared with 27,157 acres from 5,693 applicants in 1949.

The 1950 applications are classified as follows:—

<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>No. of applications.</i>
Sago	5,858	689
Padi	6,064	1,388
Miscellaneous Food crops ...	3,341	611
Rubber	7,282	1,271
Coconut	4,325	502
Pepper	3,327	1,084
Ordinary Agricultural ...	685	145
Fruit and Coffee	576	176
Vegetable	112	34
Building	150	355
Miscellaneous	112	113
Cattle grazing	837	31
Total	32,669	6,399

Applications dealt with.

At the beginning of the year there were 4,683 applications waiting to be dealt with and during the year 5,965 applications were dealt with in the following manner:—

(a) Surveyed during the year ...	4,436
(b) Applications for land already surveyed	396
(c) Applications cancelled, withdrawn or disallowed	995
(d) Applications for which title issued without survey	138

This left arrears of applications not dealt with at the end of the year of 5,117, an increase in arrears of 434.

Dealings in alienated land.

Some 8,380 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:—

Transfers ...	4,035	Caveats ...	251
Charges ...	859	Miscellaneous (i.e.	
Release of Charge ...	1,077	Deeds of Exchanges,	
Sub-leases ...	45	etc.) ...	574
Surrender to Crown	258	Power of Attorney or	
Court Orders ...	5	Revocation ...	162
Partition Orders ...	40	Transmission by Probate	
Letters of Adminis-		Officers in case of	
tration ...	370	small estates ...	704

Issue of titles for Crown Land.

Some 4,212 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1950, 110,098.

Miscellaneous.

Requests for subdivision of alienated land totalled 458, while miscellaneous inspections of land were 866.

Settlement Operations.

The re-settlement of non-indigenous persons squatting on native farming lands has achieved a good measure of success during the year.

The areas most affected were the Land Dayak lands in the First Division and the Rejang delta farming lands in the Third Division. At the end of 1950 some 487 squatters had been peaceably removed from the former into lands more suitable for their needs, the largest being an area of 1,557 acres at Batu Gong near the 18th Mile Kuching-Serian Road on the north side where lots were laid out for 248 families.

In the Rejang delta a preliminary to the re-settlement scheme was the classification of some 1,600 square miles of potential wet padi land thereby constituting thirty new Mixed Zones in which existing non-indigenous squatters as well as natives would be permitted to obtain registered land rights, and forty Native Areas in which only natives may hold land. Where native claims were greatly in excess of requirements and the formation of Mixed Zones was approved by the Governor in Council it was necessary to compensate by cash payment the native holders of the customary rights after an extensive investigation by survey officers to record claims and determine those which should be accepted for compensation or issue of title as the case may be. During this time Administrative Officers were busy explaining the classification scheme to the natives concerned who accepted the idea and saw the advantage of being able to take out titles to their own land. At the same time they were relieved that official action was being taken to contain the non-indigenous farmers who hitherto had been renting land from them under arrangements which were often disadvantageous to the native.



A view of Kuching river.

Towards the end of the year the investigation was completed and the scheme of classification and settlement received the approval of the Governor in Council. Preparation of titles and payment of compensation is proceeding.

The scheme provides for the settlement of 2,123 Chinese families mostly in the areas they now occupy as squatters except for 743 families who are being moved from the Native Areas to the Mixed Zones. In addition, there is provision in the scheme for the settlement of 877 landless Chinese families from other parts of the country, making a total of 3,000 families being accommodated on land with secure tenure.

Other settlement operations consisted of the transfer to the new register under the Land Settlement Ordinance of 339 lots in the First Division.

Bazaar Development.

The development of large and small bazaars on planned layouts continued to receive attention both in the provision of layouts for new bazaars and the re-planning of old ones. Some 22 layouts were made.

Surveys.

Cadastral surveys comprised some 3,794 miles of prismatic compass boundary surveys and 475 miles of theodolite control.

An important survey completed during the year was the precise traverse along the coast of the Rejang Delta needed to establish fixed points to which surveys in 800 square miles of the flat delta land may be connected.

Air photography for topographical mapping was resumed during the year by the R.A.F. who covered 2,985 sq. miles with new photography and did 1,892 sq. miles of revision photography. Most of this photography was on a scale of 1/25,000 for the standard 1/50,000 topographical sheets. In addition some Forest Strips and town cover on a scale of 1/4,800 was obtained.

The preparation of rough lucigram mosaics for Forestry, Agriculture and Geological Survey purposes covered an additional 8,424 sq. miles.

Material for the production of eleven sheets of the regular 1/50,000 printed map series was sent to the Directorate of Colonial Surveys where compilation from air photos and reproduction by photo lithography will be done.

CHAPTER 13.

Science and Arts.

The Museum during 1950.

The Sarawak Museum was established by the second Rajah Brooke in 1886. Under a series of energetic curators it has grown into a fine mixed museum, having the best collection of Dayak art and crafts to be found anywhere. It is the only museum in the four Borneo territories.

It is a great attraction for tourists, being situated in beautiful grounds in the centre of Kuching, and the local people, too, have visited it frequently. Of the 70,000 visitors during 1950 about a quarter were Dayaks, a third Malays, a third Chinese and the rest European and other races. School children accompanied by their teachers are coming in increasing numbers. The two stuffed Orang-utans, the snakes, the big whale skeleton and the human heads interest the young, while the photographs of Kuching in the past and the stamp collection attract the older visitors.

Unfortunately there are no exhibits of Clouded Leopards, Honey Bears and Rhinoceros. Specimens of the first two have been obtained but await stuffing; Rhinoceros were plentiful in the early decades of this century, but owing to their value as an aphrodisiac to the Chinese, they have been hunted nearly to extinction. It is doubtful whether there were any in Sarawak when a survey was made in 1947, but since then a few have moved in from eastern Borneo, and it is hoped that, as they are now protected by a Game Ordinance, they will soon become established.

Some Chicken.

The prize piece in the live animals section in the museum grounds died in 1950. It was a chick that survived several attacks from a King Cobra, or Hamadryad (*Naja hannah*) also an inhabitant of the menagerie. The King Cobra is rightly regarded as the most vicious and deadly snake in the world. The museum possessed a specimen of six feet long, which was violently aggressive and refused all food other than live snakes. These are not always to be found in Kuching township, so in despair its keepers bought a newly hatched chick

in the market and put it into the cage for the Cobra's breakfast. The Cobra struck at once. The chick, shaken, fluttered and cheeped and recovered. It hopped on the Cobra's back and stayed there. It was left in the cage for 18 hours during which time it was bitten at least five times, probably many more. Then it was with difficulty removed and pensioned off. It grew up into a handsome cock, the only sign of its serpentine experience being a slight displacement of its crop!

A Brunei Gallery.

The Government of Brunei has generously offered to donate a sum of money to the Sarawak Museum for buying and displaying Brunei objects, there being no museum in the state of Brunei. There is already a good Brunei collection in the museum, but the rich and varied art and craft of the Sultanate has largely disappeared without being adequately represented in any collections or publications. There is still time for much to be saved, and to make a gallery in the Sarawak museum which will do justice to the State which once dominated the whole of Borneo and many of the surrounding islands.

Turtles.

The bulky Edible Turtle (*Chelone mydas*) has proved of great value to the Colony during the year. It lays its eggs on three islands in the big bay at the south-west corner of Sarawak. This year the turtle egg industry was put on a new basis and experiments undertaken to conserve the species, to improve the hatch of eggs, and to study methods of rearing young turtles so that they can be put into the sea in such a condition as to resist the attacks of sharks and other fish which normally take the majority of them in the first few minutes of their lives.

Although tens of thousands of eggs were put down in hatcheries, well over two million eggs were sold to the public. Turtle eggs at a few cents each are regarded as a cheap and nutritious form of food, and except during the peak season (July-September) demand far exceeds supply.

The profits of the turtle industry go to a Trust for Malay religious and charitable activities. This year a considerable sum was deducted to buy a 60 horse-power Diesel engined boat, which should improve the development of the industry

in 1951. The boat is named "Burong Rawa", after the black and white Imperial Nutmeg Pigeon which frequents the Turtle Islands (but not the mainland).

Mammals and Birds.

The mammals found in Borneo include the remarkable jumping Tarsier, an early evolutionary relation of man, and the extraordinary Scaly-Ant-Eater or *Pangolin* both of which are represented, somewhat inaccurately, on the current Sarawak stamps.

The bird life of Sarawak is incomparably fascinating, and work has been begun on compiling a comprehensive book on the birds of Borneo, for which there is a crying need. Here we are fortunate in having two Government Officers who are eminent ornithologists, Mr. D. F. Smythies, author of the fine "Birds of Burma" and Mr. Alistair Morrison. In collaboration also with Dr. Gibson-Hill of the Raffles Museum, Singapore and the Curator of the Sarawak Museum, it is hoped to produce a check list on species known and their distribution, and then a fuller volume containing information on habits, songs, nesting, etc., etc. Much of this information is still lacking, and contributions from other observers will be warmly welcome.

During the year several other discoveries of interest have been made or published. The extremely rare Malay Honey-Guide (*Indicator Archipelagicus*) was observed and its behaviour recorded near Tapuh in the First Division. The very beautifully Silver-rumped Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura leucopygialis*), about which nothing was previously known (believed to be found on the mountains) was noticed on the Rejang and subsequently as abundant on the Tinjar in the Fourth Division, and subsequently at Santubong and even on the Museum grounds itself. Nothing is yet known of its nesting habits.

Investigations of the birds' nests caves in the Bau district upriver from Kuching reveals a new puzzle in connection with the remarkable Swiftlets which make the edible birds' nests so highly esteemed as a Chinese delicacy. There appear, at Bau, to be two different Swifts making inedible nests, whereas it was previously thought that there was only one in this part of the world. It is possible that inedible swifts are increasing at the expense of the kinds that make the delicious basis for birds' nest soup.



In the Sarawak Museum : a late but beautiful Chinese jar of the type very highly valued by the Trusan Muruts.

A remarkable discovery by Dr. Ernst Mayr of the American Museum of Natural History, was a small bird collected on the Museum expedition to the Kelabit country late in 1949. This proved to be a specimen of the Common Wheatear (*Oenanthe*) so familiar as a summer immigrant in England. No bird of this group has ever been recorded in South East Asia. This one was hopping about on some cattle-grazing land outside a Kelabit long-house in the far interior at over 3,000 feet—and behaving just as if it had been in Sussex.

There are probably thousands of species of insects in Sarawak which still have not been collected. During 1950 we were fortunate in receiving an official visit through the courtesy of the Indonesian Government, from Dr. M. A. Lieftinck, Curator of the great Zoological Museum at Bogor in Java. Dr. Lieftinck is an eminent entomologist and he spent nearly a month reviving our large insect collection in the Museum, which suffered considerable neglect during the war years. In this place, there is much scope for the entomologist in Sarawak—or indeed any zoologist interested in the lower groups of animal life in general.

Verse and Songs.

One of the most fascinating activities of Malay culture, both in Brunei and in Sarawak, is the keeping of written records of history and mythology, often in verse form and of great length. Most of these *Silah-Silah* have been lost in recent years, largely owing to the disinterest of the younger generation. But quite a number have been retrieved and are gradually being translated. The manuscripts are now in appalling condition; they are written in archaic scripts and archaic forms of Malay; it is difficult to translate them into intelligible Romanised Malay, which has to be rendered into English, without losing the particular style and tension of the *pantun* singing for which the tales were intended. Here is a simplified fragment taken at random.

Demong spoke then to Sama'on—

“Too swift is your boat, it sweeps to break my limbs.”

Said Sama'on, slowly, “No, my dear brother. I am amazed. There is no difference between tree stumps.

Neither between winds.”

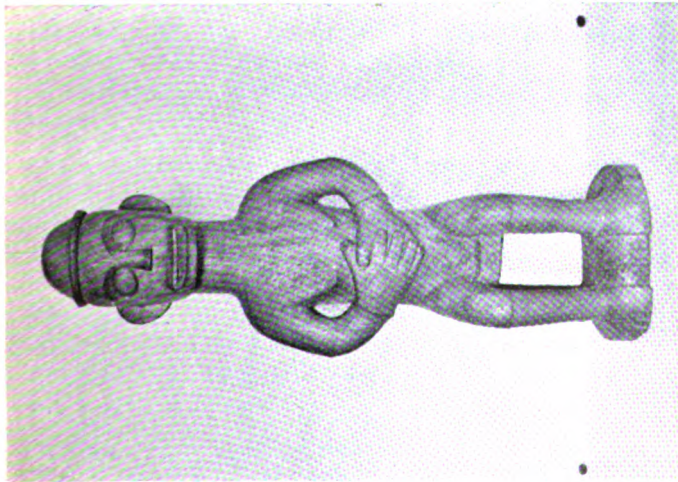
Demong, replying, said, "Once more let us to rowing.
If I am the swifter, far behind you shall follow."

The waves o'er the prow fell as in a storm opening,
sweeping in to the jungle far along Baram, the waves,
mighty and mounting And so on, in rising
crescendo; this one for 1,350 stanzas.

Singing plays a tremendous part in the life of most Sarawak people, especially the Pagans. During 1950 wire recordings of Kelabit, Kayan, Kenyah and other songs were made. Preliminary specimens processed by the British Broadcasting Corporation in London are satisfactory for gramophone use. These songs, like the Malay ones, usually refer to historical and legendary events, often in immense detail. But there is more variety and individuality, less stylisation than in the *pantun*. Each has its own separate original tempo, which with the song's own gathering momentum becomes absorbing and moving. Some Kelabit songs which the Museum Research Assistant has written down in full, take several whole nights to perform and describe the whole Pantheon of warriors, spirits and gods.

Native Arts.

During June-July 1950, a Museum expedition was made into the headwaters of the Tinjar. The main objects of this trip were to collect ethnological information and specimens of native arts, and to prepare for and further expedition in 1951 when it is hoped to visit the still unexplored section between the headwaters of the Tinjar and the Plieran branch of the Rejang. The small relic of Berawan and Sebop craftsmen still practising on the Tinjar are superb artists in design; bottle stoppers, small human figures, made in bone or hardwood, decorated planks, decorations for poles of houses, and the prows of canoes. Every attempt was made on this trip to encourage the continuation of this work and to arrange for the best of it to be purchased for the Sarawak Museum and for exchange with other museums. Unfortunately, the poor rice harvest on the Tinjar in 1950 gave the people unusual difficulties in obtaining food and correspondingly little spare-time for the very labourious work of fine crafting. Some of the best available from here and other parts of the Colony has been sent to the Imperial Institute in connection with the Festival of Britain.



Berawan wood carving of a female figure, from the Tinjar River, in fine red wood.



Berawan pole carving from the Tinjar River. The Berawans are the finest wood carvers in Sarawak.

The trend of decline in native crafts is general, including the beautiful bamboo work done by the Land-Dayak on the Sadong, and the Ibans' weaving of blankets and clothes. The Balau branch of the Sea-Dayaks of the Second Division have almost lost their old songs and dances, with nothing much to replace them. A visit to this area was paid by the Curator in company with Mr. Felix Topolski, well-known painter and cartoonist. With a certain amount of difficulty, old head and fertility dances were revived for the occasion—many of the younger people had never seen them before. Mr. Topolski made a large number of sketches of these and other aspects of Balau life, and he has incorporated some of the results in the great panel he has prepared for the Festival of Britain. Two of the main reasons for the decline of some of the most dynamic and attractive aspects of the old culture are the rapid spread of education and boom in the price of rubber. There is a tendency for some of the newly literate to regard as absurd all their pre-literate beliefs, but the new literacy has brought some advantages, even to the preserving of culture. A young Saribas Dayak has been working industriously collecting and writing down the old series of genealogies of his people and has produced an imposing report.

Archaeological Surveys.

The new enterprise started by the Sarawak Government and assisted by the Carnegie Foundation (through Mr. M. W. F. Tweedie) was the beginning of an Archaeological Survey in Sarawak. Two sites were selected for preliminary excavation.

The first of these was at Santubong, at the mouth of the Sarawak River. Here are evidences of a site of early Hindu occupation, associated with a considerable iron industry and with the import of Chinese and Siamese porcelain on a large scale. The total distance within which there is proof of this industry extends for more than two miles. So far a series of trial areas of land have been dug, yielding very rich returns in every case. During 1951 more detailed, excavation of one selected spot will be made.

The other area selected was in the limestone caves around Bau about twenty miles inland from Kuching. Here the material is of a different character, with huge heaps of river shells which have been transported by men from the plain

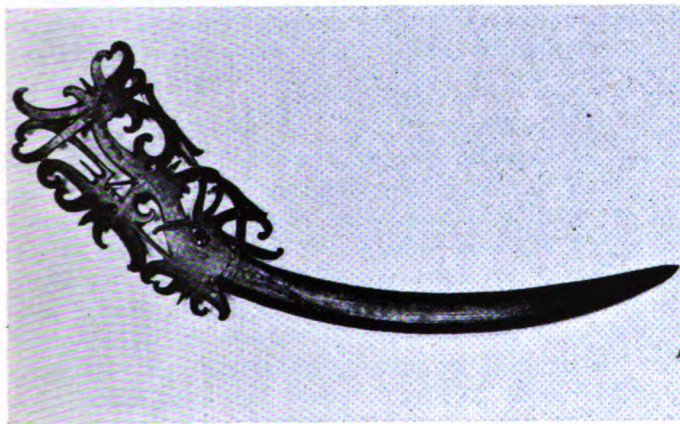
below, sometimes up into caves which require rock-climbing skill to reach them. Similar shell deposits are found in Malaya and elsewhere and are associated with the neolithic period of stone age occupation. At Bau, excavation was carried on with a statistical basis, for the first time in this sort of work in South East Asia. The work will be continued in 1951. What sort of implements were used by early man in Borneo, and how did early man reach Borneo? Did Java man—one of the earliest forms known, occupy this island? Several hundreds of stone implements have been collected in Sarawak during the past year, some of them of beauty and of types previously unknown in this part of the world. But these are in the hands of native peoples and have been passed down from father to son for generations. They are regarded as thunderbolts, having magical qualities of high order. So far, none of these have been found in excavation site where they can be related to sequences of occupation. There is some reason to think that further research in Sarawak may establish that the sequences of early cultures in South East Asia differs considerably from that at present generally accepted by archaeologists, who, in the absence of data, have made up general theories which include Borneo. Unfortunately, so far Borneo does not seem to want to fit into the theories.

The Serus.

A special study was made during 1950 of the last remaining numbers of the once powerful pagan group called Serus. One of the three principal informants, Gunggu, died during the course of study, which aims to reconstruct the amazing and bloody tale of how these people were exterminated—to a large degree through their own depraved way of life and passion for head-hunting. The Serus once numbered many thousands and inhabited the Saratok District. Nothing remains of which we can certainly attribute to their material culture, although there were still several hundreds of them during the early life of the Sarawak Museum, Chula (see plate), the senior surviving Seru, has also provided an autobiography which can only be described as fascinating. He has been almost everything in Sarawak, from a rice-cultivator to a trader in old jars, and servant to several famous characters, one of whom took him on a trip to the United States. His slant on the world has something unique in it.



Bottle stopper carved from deer-horn
by a Berawan craftsman from the
Tinjar River.



A man's hairpin, made of buffalo-
horn from the headwaters of the
Baram River.

The Museum's regular Kelabit studies have been continued on a reduced scale in 1950 and will be resumed more actively in 1951. The Kelabits are the group of people inhabiting the rich uplands of the far interior, with their own system of irrigation, numerous cattle, and valuable salt-springs which make this remote area tenable to a well-organised society.

Archives.

Linked with the attempt to reconstruct the past by archaeological research, in 1950 an Archives Section was established in the Museum. At present it is only beginning to sort and index the mass of material from the Brooke files, from outstations, court books and upriver travel diaries. Complete files of local publications are now being kept under the Printers' and Publishers' Ordinance enacted in 1950. At the same time the Reference Library of Borneo and South-east Asia books has been much improved, though there are still important gaps to be filled.

The Museum Journal.

Owing the paper supply difficulties, only one issue of the *Sarawak Museum Journal* was published during 1950. The second issue was prepared but is not yet distributed. It contains a wealth of material on natural history and human subjects, including papers by Land and Sea Dayaks, Malays, Bajau, Dusun, contributions from Government Officers and missionaries from Ivor H. N. Evans, doyen of Asian ethnologists, Mr. M. W. F. Tweedie and Dr. Gibson-Hill of Raffles Museum, Mr. R. E. Holttum, Singapore Botanical Gardens, Dr. K. H. Vouss of the Amsterdam Museum, Mr. Breuning of the Natural History Museum, Paris, and so on. The Museum Journal clearly fills a need in publishing authenticated and original studies of Sarawak. In view of the absence of a similar journal elsewhere in Borneo, contributions relevant to Borneo as a whole have been and will be welcome.

The next issue includes two original studies by Dayaks. The journal is exchanged for publications of other institutions all over the world, notably in Western Europe, North America and Australia, also in countries such as Poland, Argentina, Kenya, Rhodesia, Japan, and extensively in India, Pakistan and Indonesia.

PART III

CHAPTER 1.

Geography.

General description.

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Geology.

Sarawak occupies an important position in the make-up of the island chains of South-East Asia, its mountain arc of ancient rocks being essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving north-west. In the extreme west of Sarawak there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-north-east in common with the Malayan regional strike.

Sarawak can be subdivided provisionally into three geological areas, reflecting the broad geographical divisions into interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of mesozoic and upper palaeozoic rocks. It appears to consist mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllite, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, quartzite and igneous intrusions.

Tertiary sediments are best exposed in the undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur and some of the beds are petroliferous. The tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both the oil and most of the coal.

Pleistocene and recent deposits form the low-lying coastal tracts; these are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of the areas are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat to unconsolidated sands and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediments inland representing river and lake accumulations.

Igneous rocks occur, and the formation of mineral deposits such as gold, antimony and mercury appears to be genetically related to the igneous activity. However, neither the igneous

intrusions nor the mineral deposits have been mapped or systematically investigated, and their exact relationships are uncertain.

Vegetation.

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers.

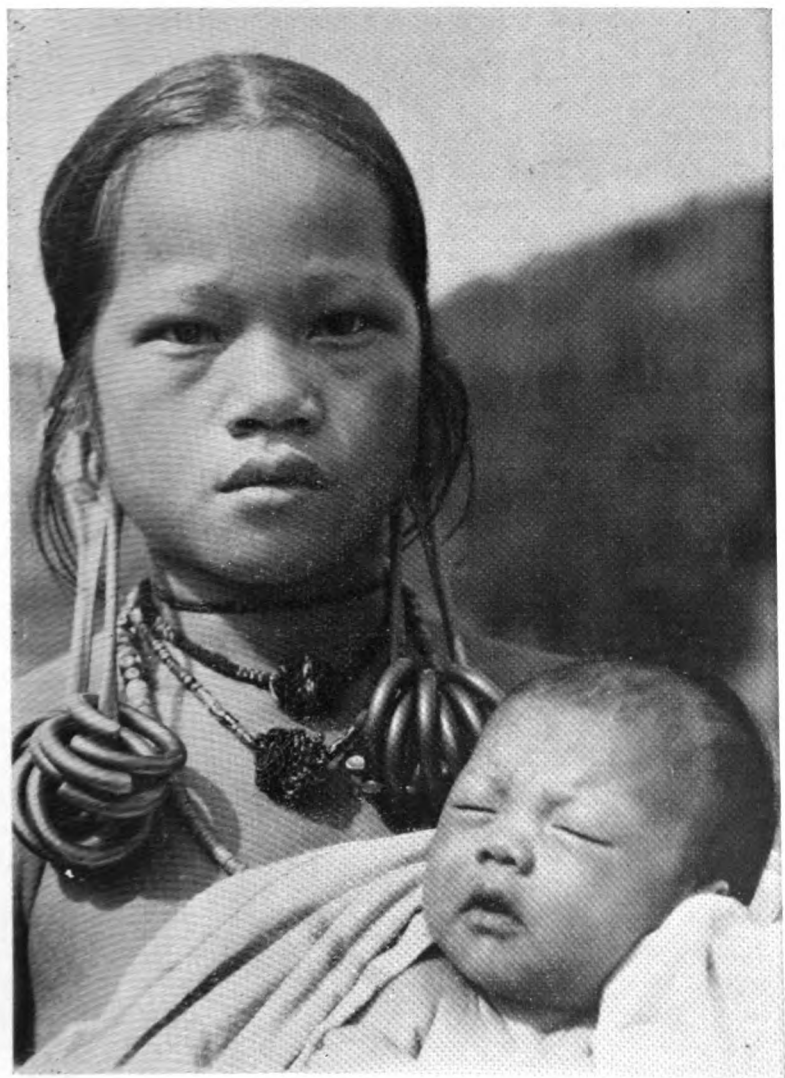
The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological.

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.



Kenyah girl and baby. The much elongated ears will grow longer yet as more and more weights are gradually added.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 157.26 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 18.45 inches in October and the minimum 8.30 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Principal Towns.

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita, the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, large Malay riverside *kampongs* and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar, churches, schools, wharves and warehouses, lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibu is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a

population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, and still presents a sorry aspect, though reconstruction is taking place. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons, together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

CHAPTER 2.

History.

Owing to the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, we can do little more than conjecture as to the early history of the country now called Sarawak. Hindu figures and gold ornaments have been found, predominantly in the Sarawak River basin, but their date and provenance have not yet been satisfactorily established. The Land Dayaks of the First Division, by their abstention from the flesh of cattle and by the name of their god Jewata (Hindu *deva*), show that at one time they were brought into intimate contact with the Hindus.

A priori reasoning, coupled with the discovery of undoubtedly early Hindu remains in other parts of Borneo, suggests that Sarawak was visited, and probably settled in, by the Indian colonists, who from the early years of the Christian era went forth from their homeland to trade and settle in the countries to the south-east.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present-day total world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the Ramayana), Ptolemy's *Iabadiou*, and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

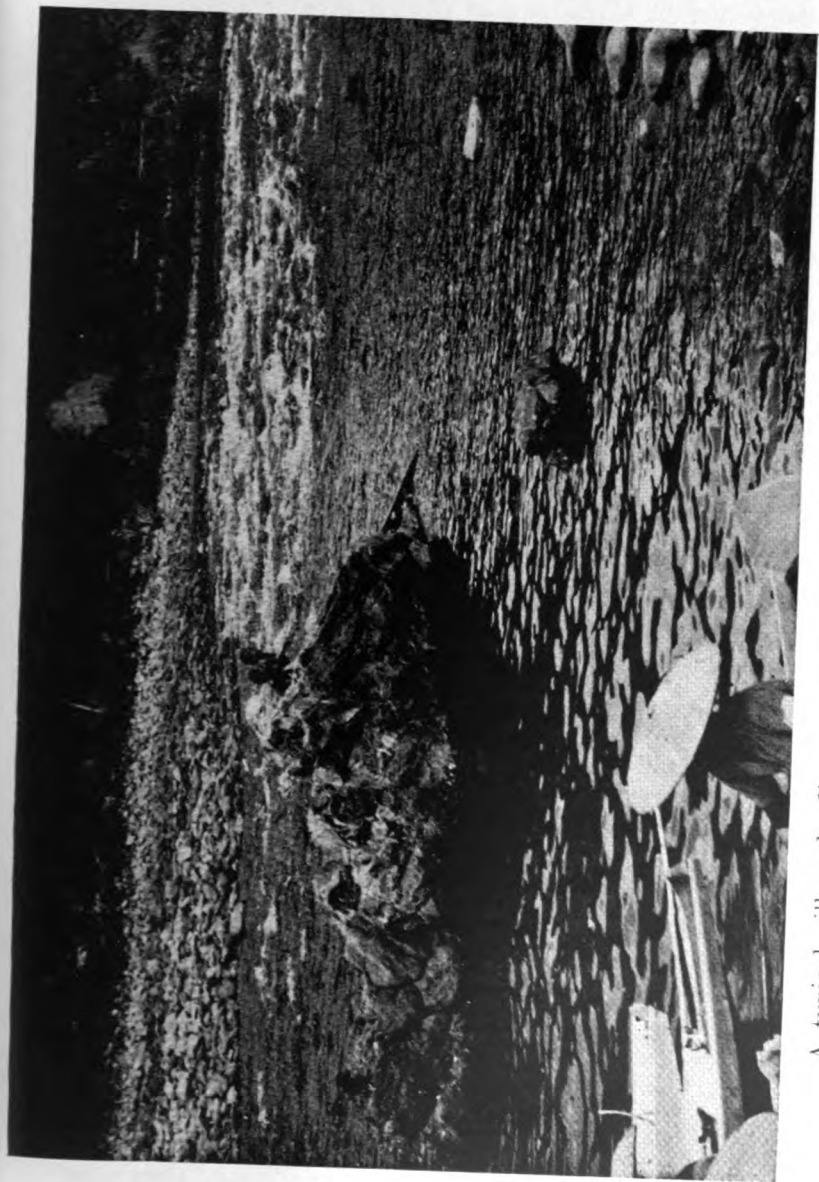
It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hin lu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that

a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Moslem states established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as the present capital, Kuching.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however, is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1861. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.



A typical village landing place and bathing pool on the Akar River.

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Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built upon the foundations laid by his uncle with such conspicuous success that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River, in 1885, when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded, and in 1890, when the Limbang River was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased to exist; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had

been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary reformed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

CHAPTER 3.

Administration.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of twenty-five members, fourteen of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and eleven of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the Colony and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the twenty-five members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Colony and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the Colony except with the consent of the Council Negri.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases.

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgment, His Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

The Constitution was granted to Sarawak by the Rajah in 1941 and in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers from as much routine office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war, however, the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Local Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. During the past year eleven new Authorities have been constituted, and there are now sixteen Local Authorities in all. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, and this seems inevitable at present if any progress is to be made. There are, however,



Temonggong Tama Weng Ajong, M.B.E., at his rice farm at Long Akar, Baram River. A Kenyah himself, he is the leading chief of all northern inland pagans and Christians. He is a Roman Catholic.

encouraging signs of co-operation between the various races in certain parts of the country. In Limbang Malays, Chinese, Kedayans, Muruts and Indians participate in the same Authority; a mixed Malay and Dayak Authority has been formed at Lundu in the First Division; and a mixed Malay, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak Authority was about to be launched at Serian at the end of the year. At the beginning of 1950 no less than 195,000 persons were living within the sphere of a Local Authority.

The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number of tax-payers.

While the standard of efficiency between one Authority and another has differed widely, they have in general shown ability to undertake the duties so far allotted to them. Education has been a subject in which they have shown the greatest interest, and some of them have been quick to appreciate that increased expenditure can generally be met only by increased taxation.

CHAPTER 4.

Weights and Measures.

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tahlil	=	$1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	=	$1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	=	$133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	=	$5333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Chhun	=	$1.19/40$ inches.
10 Chhuns	=	1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	=	108 stacked cubic feet.

CHAPTER 5.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

- The Sarawak Tribune, Kuching (Daily) (English).
- The Kuching Daily News, Kuching (Daily) (Chinese).
- The Chung Hua Journal, Kuching (Daily) (Chinese).
- The Ta Tung Oversea Chinese Daily News, Sibul
(Chinese).
- The Chiau Sheng Pau (Daily) Sibul (Chinese).
- The Current Critic, Kuching (Bi-weekly) (Chinese).
- The Utusan Sarawak, Kuching (Weekly) (Malay).
- The Sarawak Gazette, Kuching (Monthly) (English).
- Pedomani Ra'ayat (Monthly) (Malay).
- Pembrita (Monthly) (Iban).

CHAPTER 6.

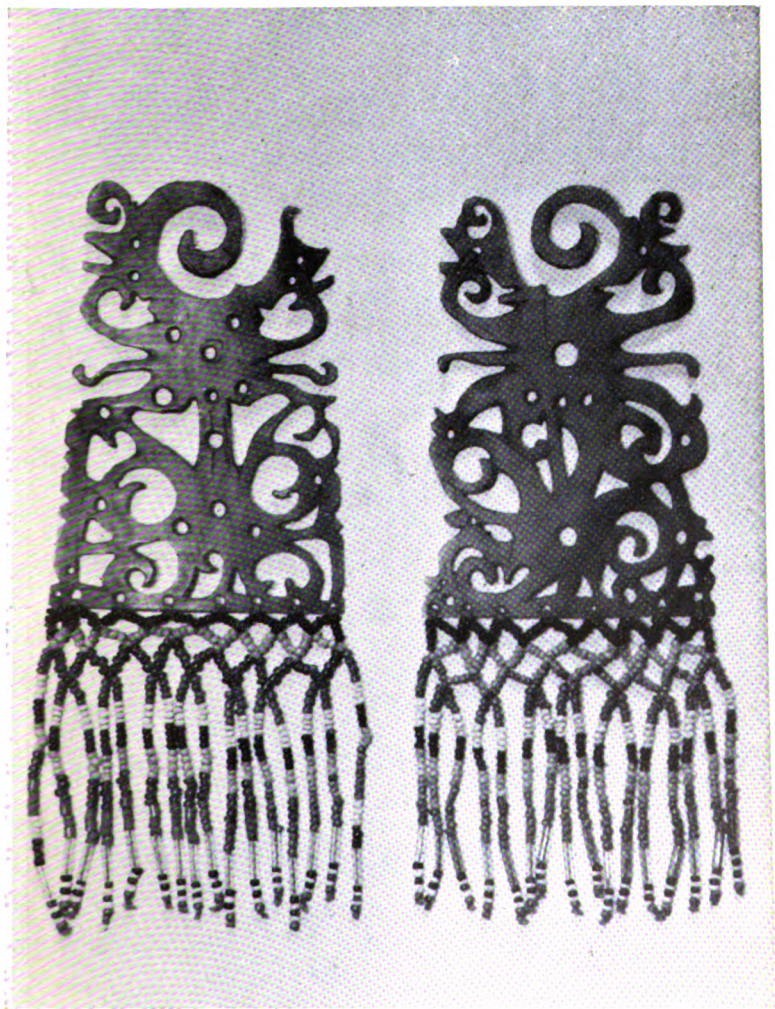
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COLONIAL OFFICE
REPORT ON
SARAWAK
FOR THE YEAR
1951

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LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1953

(Printed in Sarawak)

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**ARMS OF THE COLONY
OF SARAWAK.**

I

General Review of the Year.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, K.C.M.G., was on duty in Sarawak during the whole of the year and travelled widely throughout the country.

The general prosperity created by the sudden rise in the value of rubber and other primary products during 1950 continued during 1951. The aggregate value of external trade during the year was \$228 million greater than that of 1950, and there was a favourable trade balance of \$84 million. The most notable features of Sarawak's production figures during the year were perhaps the increase of nearly 25% in the volume of timber and of nearly 300% in the volume of pepper exports. Customs revenue for the year reached a record total.

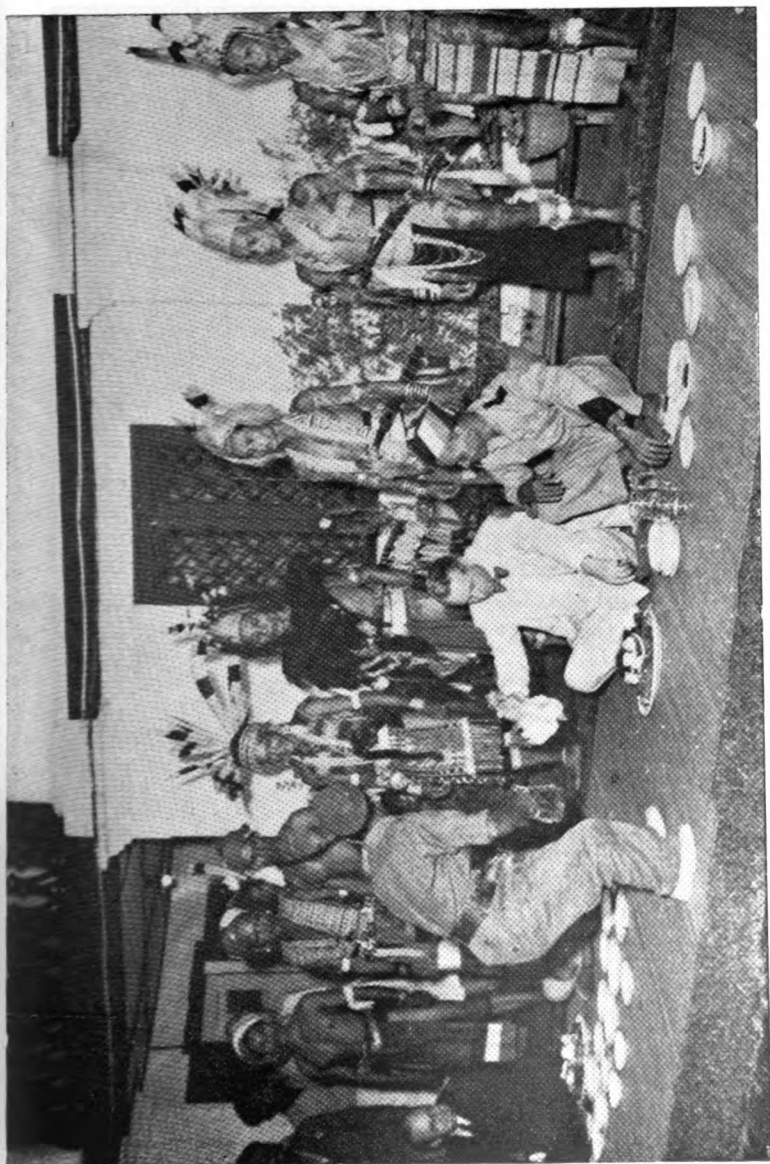
The prosperity of the Colony was reflected in the general prosperity of its people. The greatly increased demand for consumer goods reflected the general increase in wealth of the peasant producers; considerable fortunes were made by middlemen and dealers in export produce. There was a great demand for labour, which was totally inadequate for the Colony's requirements, and the earnings of skilled and unskilled labour remained at levels more than twice as high as those which obtained in 1949. These conditions created hardships for fixed salary earners, but steps were taken during the year by revision of the emoluments of all established Government employees to reduce the disparity between their rewards and those of individuals engaged in production or in commerce.

This general prosperity brought with it its own problems and difficulties. The Government's development programme was seriously handicapped by the extreme shortage of skilled and unskilled labour. Maintenance of ordinary Government services was also prejudiced by difficulties of recruitment and by the resignation of persons able to find more lucrative employment elsewhere. The projects which suffered most severely were undoubtedly the programmes for new construction and rehabilitation of the Colony's road system; it is

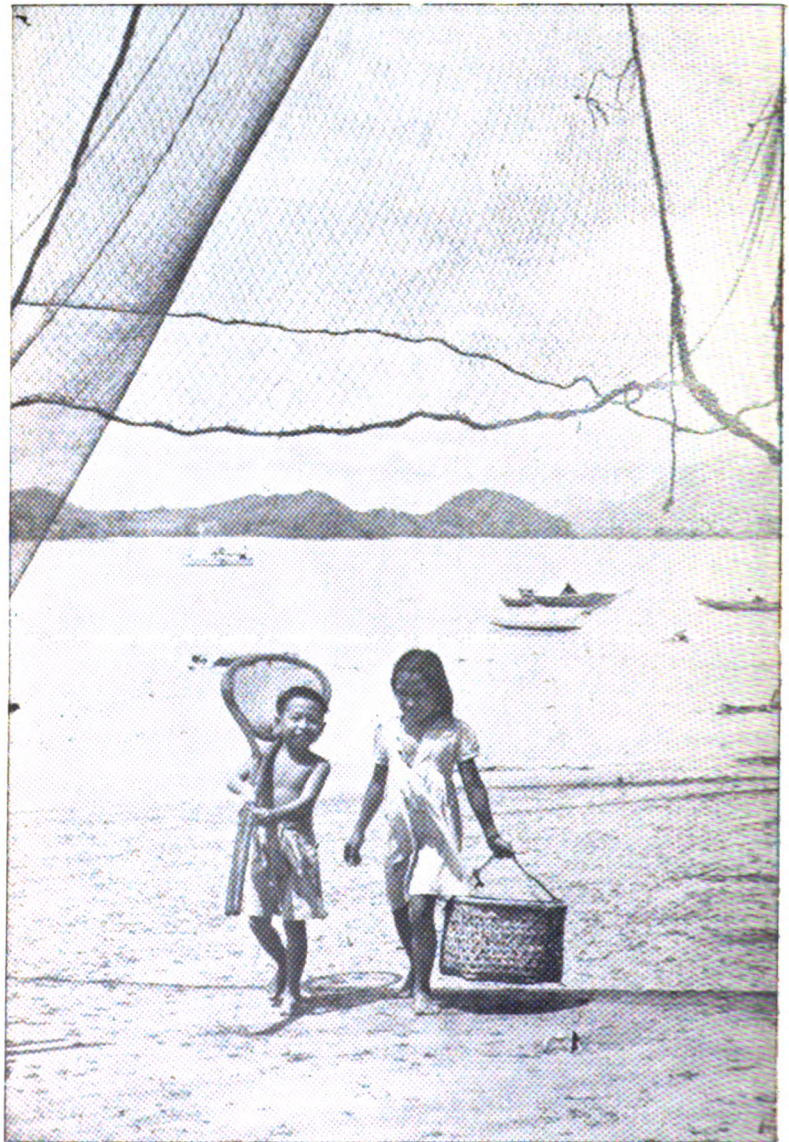
not extravagant to assume that the sudden changes in economic conditions during 1950-51 have delayed the completion by a full year. The Colony's development programme was revised during the year to make allowance for increased costs and prices, and for the inclusion of new projects prepared under the Colombo Plan; details of progress during the year and of the revised plan are contained in Chapter IX and Appendix A of the Report. The machinery for controlling development works was strengthened by the constitution during the year of a Development Board representative of the whole territory.

The rise in the value of export crops, the increased demands for labour consequent thereon, and the comparative reduction in the economic attractions of food farming, created problems the real impact of which will not be felt until 1952. It was already becoming apparent at the end of 1951 that local food production during 1952 would be lower than in previous years and that, for this reason, there would be a considerable time lag in the effect upon the cost of living of any reduction in the value of the Colony's primary products.

Despite the difficulties referred to above, some progress was made in the development of Sarawak's public services, which are discussed in greater detail in Chapters VIII and XII of the Report. Particular reference may be made here to the progress in construction of Government house and office accommodation throughout the territory and to preliminary work on the development of waterworks and ports, the effect of which will not be apparent until 1952. Notable progress was also made in the expansion of education and co-operative development, identification of the Colony's mineral resources, and examination and exploitation of the Colony's forest assets. There was, throughout the year, a great increase in the activities of the Colony's Information Services and much preliminary work was done in planning for the development of a Sarawak Broadcasting Service at a later date. There was progress in the medical building programme; but perhaps no branch of the public service was so severely handicapped in its expansion as was the Medical Department, by difficulty in recruiting staff and retaining existing staff. During the year increased attention was paid to social welfare work, and the machinery for examining welfare projects and assessing the claims for assistance of such projects was strengthened by the constitution of a Social Welfare Council and a Social



[G.S.I.S. Photograph.]
His Excellency the Commissioner General, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, performing a traditional Dayak ceremony of welcome at the Astana, Kuching.



[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

A cheerful boy and girl carry their catch home. Seen in a Malay fishing village near Kuching.

Welfare Advisory Committee. Both bodies did very valuable work during the year; and particular mention must be made of a public appeal launched by the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak under the auspices of the Social Welfare Council to raise funds for the provision of a Chest Clinic in Kuching. It was decided during the year to make available to the Social Welfare Council, for expenditure upon welfare projects approved by that Council and by the Government, sums accruing to revenue from the Colony tax on lotteries.

The legislative programme of the year is set out in detail in Chapter X of this Report, and particular reference must be made here to legislation dealing with Local Government. 1951 was a year of notable progress in this field, a year of development not of the racial form of Local Government with which the Colony's programme was begun in 1947, but of authorities embracing within their jurisdiction all races within their geographical area. A great deal of work was also done in preparation for the conversion of the Kuching Municipality into a unit of Local Government with a much greater degree of autonomy than it at present possesses; although it had been hoped to complete this conversion on the 1st January, 1952, staff and other difficulties have made it necessary to postpone the final stage of transition to a later date.

An important feature of the year's legislative programme was the introduction of legislation providing for the constitution of the Unified Borneo Judiciary, which is discussed in greater detail in Chapter XI.

Reference is made above to the revision of salaries undertaken during the year. Particular attention was paid during this revision to the emoluments of the Constabulary; this examination showed that these emoluments were not only inadequate, as were those of many other Departments of Government, in relation to changed economic conditions, but inadequate also in relation to the duties and responsibilities of the various Constabulary grades. The revision finally approved by the Secretary of State therefore embodied relatively greater changes than those approved for other Departments—changes which should go far towards ensuring easier recruitment to and a higher standard of efficiency in a branch of the service the importance of which has been greatly increased by contemporary political circumstances.

Although peace and good order was maintained in Sarawak during the year, and although this happy state of affairs continued in marked contrast to the strife and political unrest in some Far Eastern territories, there was much greater evidence than in any previous year of positive and active Communist attempts to disrupt the peace of the Colony. Reference is made in Chapter VIII, Part A to disturbances in certain schools in Kuching; there can be little doubt that these disturbances were political in origin and also little doubt that a general attempt was being made to use the Chinese school system as an agency for the indoctrination of the younger generation of overseas Chinese in Sarawak with ideals essentially opposed to those upon which the racial amity and co-operation, which has so long existed in Sarawak, is founded.

A political issue, which had been a source of discord within the Malay communities of Sarawak in previous years, disappeared with the end of the Cession controversy, and Mr. Anthony Brooke's formal abandonment of his claims, in February. This decision was welcomed in public statements made by the Governor and the Prime Minister. Much progress was achieved by the Administration during the year in bringing together those sections of the Malay community which had for five years been split by this unhappy controversy.

The creation of a junior administrative service, called the Sarawak Administrative Service, was approved during the year by the Secretary of State. Its object is to enable all races living in Sarawak to participate in the work of government, instead of, as in the past, confining such participation to natives of the country through the medium of the Native Officers' Service. This latter Service is not thereby automatically abolished; it will continue to exist but there will be no fresh recruitment to its ranks.

Sarawak continued throughout the year to assist to the best of its ability the efforts of the Federation of Malaya Government against Communist banditry. No fewer than 484 Dayaks served as Trackers, embodied in the Federation's Civil Liaison Corps in Malaya, and the strength of the Dayak force was maintained at an average of 240.



[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

Dayak hero Awang anak Rawang who was awarded the George Cross for meritorious service in Malaya.

SARAWAK ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.



His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell with Mr. Gopala Menon, Representative of the Government of India, when the latter presented his credentials at the Astana, Kuching.

In November, 1951, His Majesty approved the award to Iban Tracker Awang anak Rawang, formerly attached to the 1st Worcestershire Regiment, of the George Cross, after a jungle action in which Awang displayed the highest courage and gallantry. This award, reflecting as it did the distinction and honour conferred upon the Iban Tracker Force in particular and the people of Sarawak in general, aroused great general interest and appreciation throughout the Colony.

The work of the War Damage Commission proceeded smoothly and rapidly and it is anticipated that it will be possible to wind up the Commission some time in 1952.

Three members of the Sarawak Legislature—the Council Negri—visited the United Kingdom during the Festival of Britain as guests of His Majesty's Government.

II

Population.

A full-scale population census was conducted during 1947. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 as disclosed by the census was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the comparative numerical importance of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census :—

<i>Cultural group.</i>	<i>Population in 1947.</i>	<i>Percentage of total population.</i>
European	... 691	0.1%
Malay	... 97,469	17.9%
Melanau	... 35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak	... 190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak	... 42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous	... 29,867	5.5%
Chinese	... 145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous		
Asian	5,119	0.9%
	<hr/> 546,385	<hr/> 100.0%



[Photograph by K. F. Wong.]

Kalabit girl from the Baram River.

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogenous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well-recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to be "Gunong Sunkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and the Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.

IMMIGRATION.

Control was further improved during 1951 as a result of the appointment of two additional Passport Examination

Officers. The issue of immigrant Landing Permits to aliens for permanent stay in Sarawak was reduced to a minimum. Efficient control of all travellers by land between Sarawak and West Borneo, is however still impossible.

There was a marked decrease during 1951 in the small craft trading between Indonesia and Sarawak ports, due mainly to the relaxation of controls on the export of rubber, copra and pepper from Indonesia and also to the drop in the prices of these commodities during the second half of the year. These commodities are now being sent direct from Indonesia to Singapore, where bigger prices can be obtained; smuggling into Sarawak is not as profitable as it was in 1950. Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri. Large vessels call regularly at Tanjong Mani in the Rejang, mainly for loading timber for export. As this place is not an authorised port no passengers are allowed to land in Sarawak from vessels which anchored here. Malayan Airways Ltd., increased their air services to Sarawak and North Borneo this year, the two services a week available during 1951 being increased to one service on Mondays and Fridays and two services on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, who is also the Officer-in-Charge of Immigration, was appointed Acting Commissioner of National Registration and this department has now taken over the work of initial registration of aliens on arrival in Kuching. This is of great convenience to the public and results in a more economic and efficient administration of the three relevant items of legislation, as well as improved liaison between the Immigration Department and the Constabulary.

It has been agreed in principle that a specified number of skilled technicians and semi-skilled artisans can be recruited by Sarawak Oilfields Limited from Hong Kong, India and Burma for work in their oilfields in Sarawak and Brunei. About forty Indian shop assistants and skilled technicians for logging companies in Sarawak arrived under agreement during 1951. To facilitate travel, especially of Sarawak Oilfields Limited employees, across the border between Sarawak and Brunei, a system of local border passes was adopted during the year.

Migration to and from Sarawak during 1951 was as follows :—

		<i>Arrivals.</i>	<i>Departures.</i>
Chinese	...	4,831	3,725
European	...	1,146	1,086
Malay	...	558	555
Melanau	...	1	31
Sea Dayak	...	487	713
Land Dayak	...	—	28
Other Indigenous	...	20	20
Other Asian	...	417	402
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total		7,460	6,560
		<hr/>	<hr/>

III

Occupation, Wages and Labour Organisation.

By far the largest part of the population continues to be engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing primitive methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting padi. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of this 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus who are a coastal tribe are mainly engaged in working sago and fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupation of the Chinese; they are to a large extent pepper and rubber planters. There are 48 sawmills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce arrack, matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The retail trade of the country is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese, as is also a large proportion of the import and export trade, although a number of European firms are active in this field.

The Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., and the British Malayan Petroleum Company, having their Headquarters at Seria, are the largest employers of labour in the Colony of Sarawak and the State of Brunei. During 1951, there were 7,000 men in the labour force, including employees under contractors; the majority of them are Chinese, the balance Malays, Dayaks and Indians. Sago production, logging, dock work and distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form of work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of children.

With the general expansion of trade, the year has been a hard one for many industrial concerns owing to the difficulty of obtaining labour. There has been a growing demand for skilled and unskilled labour in the timber and oil industrial



[Straits Times photograph.]

*His Excellency the Governor, Sir Anthony Abell, greeting a visitor from the far interior at the
Astana, Kuching.*

SARAWAK ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.



[Straits Times photograph.]

Sea Dayak girls bathing in the Rejang River above Kapit. The girl on the right appears on the current Sarawak fifty cents postage stamp.

undertakings and skilled labourers were brought in from Burma for the former. Proposals to recruit labour from India and Hong Kong for the oilfields have been under consideration. With the exception of a few European owned estates, there are no acute shortages of labour in the rubber industry, since it consists principally of small concerns often based on the family as a unit, where payment is on a profit sharing basis in good times, and where external labour is not employed at all in bad times. Wages of tappers engaged in European owned estates have increased, the reported rate at end of the year (average earning) being \$3.30 per day. Wages in the sago industry increased to \$2.85 a day. Basic rates in the oilfields were increased to \$2.85, \$4.25 and \$5.80 a day for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour. The cost of living has risen greatly throughout the country during 1951.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also the Protector of Labour, and District Officers are Deputy Protectors.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provides protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for making of complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended in 1950, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly returns from employers.

The Labour Convention Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections nor will this be possible until staff can be recruited for this function, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak have been drawn up for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

A new Labour Code will be promulgated shortly. The number of registered Trade Unions remained unchanged at 18. They are developing satisfactorily. The Officers of the Unions are in close touch with the Protector of Labour, who often found them willing to accept and act upon his advice.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance came into force on 1st April, 1950, and two agreements were made under it.

IV

Public Finance and Taxation.

Revenue and Expenditure.

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 1950, the original Estimates for 1951 and the revised Estimates based on information available as at 31st March, 1952, are given below :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expen- diture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Actual 1950	30,170,616	16,536,527	13,634,089	—
Original Estimates, 1951	20,115,500	19,137,031	978,469	—
Revised Estimates, 1951	45,554,286	21,161,675	24,392,611	—

When the Estimates for 1951 were presented a surplus of \$978,469 was anticipated.

The accounts for the year 1951 have not yet been closed but there is every reason to expect that the actual surplus will be in the region of approximately \$24,390,000.

This figure is based upon the Expenditure for 1951 exceeding the amount originally provided by approximately \$2,024,000 and the Revenue exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$25,400,000.

It is therefore estimated that at the end of the year 1951 the General Revenue Balance amounted to approximately \$41,900,000.

Revenue.

The main heads of Revenue are as follows :—

Part—I Revenue.

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951. (Revised March, 1952).</i>
	\$	\$
ORDINARY REVENUE.	\$	\$
Customs	22,763,988	12,790,000
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	1,610,421	975,100
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	1,254,213	320,600
Departmental Services ...	1,078,232	426,700
		550,847

Part—I Revenue.

<i>Head of Revenue.</i>	<i>Actual 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951 (Revised March, 1952).</i>
ORDINARY REVENUE.	\$	\$	\$
Reimbursements ...	—	234,000	112,645
Land ...	529,132	422,500	531,636
Forest ...	389,090	416,000	482,070
Posts and Telegraphs ...	506,136	437,000	587,164
Marine ...	153,181	123,500	171,142
Municipal (outstations) ...	284,541	291,500	352,871
Municipal (Kuching) ..	249,871	262,700	290,777
Revenue from Government			
Property ...	104,546	542,900	213,206
Interest ...	918,648	1,135,000	704,813
Income Tax ...	65,769	250,000	229,596
	[29,907,768]	[18,627,500]	[43,816,861]
EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE.			
Land Sales ...	171,368	38,000	287,543
Rehabilitation Loans ...	91,480	100,000	99,882
Transfer of Sarawak Currency			
Fund Surplus (part) ...	—	1,350,000	1,350,000
	[262,848]	[1,488,000]	[1,737,425]
TOTAL ...	30,170,616	20,115,500	45,554,286

Part—II Revenue.

DEVELOPMENT, WELFARE AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND.			
Grants and Loans under Colonial Development and Welfare Acts ...	—	1,630,228	1,588,889
Contribution from Accumulated Surplus revenue balances for Development Plan Schemes ...	—	5,500,429	5,500,429
Contributions from annual revenue for Development Plan Schemes ...	—	400,000	400,000
Contributions from annual revenue for major capital expenditure ...	—	2,093,023	3,374,135
Contribution from accumulated surplus—revenue balances for major capital expen- diture revoted ...	—	362,000	362,000
Loans to be raised ...	—	—	—
By transfer of the Sir C. V. Brooke Education Fund ...	—	428,571	428,571
TOTAL ...	—	10,414,251	11,654,024

Expenditure.

The heads of Expenditure are as follows:—

Part I—Expenditure.

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951. (Revised March, 1952).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Governor ...	107,277.79	94,701	93,265
Rajah's Dependants ...	110,621.99	123,800	125,931
Administration, Divisional and District ...	1,011,444.43	1,649,848	1,702,253
Agriculture ...	277,533.77	496,997	454,953
Attorney-General ...	29,432.72	43,417	46,553
Audit ...	25,492.60	70,050	68,742
Chinese Affairs, Immigration, Labour, etc. ...	63,955.37	131,874	101,915
Civil Aviation ...	16,462.13	100,639	62,419
Constabulary ...	1,106,950.14	1,722,188	1,765,433
Contributions to Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Funds ...	—	2,493,023	3,774,135
Co-operative Development ...	40,515.71	82,996	82,905
Defence and Internal Security	140,871.75	150,000	65,823
Education ...	416,660.41	718,065	556,370
Forests ...	141,370.66	230,193	238,715
Judicial ...	86,686.27	131,395	150,669
Kuching Boys' Home ...	13,661.78	21,053	18,594
Land and Survey ...	607,403.68	1,006,838	889,914
Local Authorities ...	230,894.50	296,778	275,281
Marine ...	660,562.08	533,330	517,424
Medical and Health ...	1,469,285.52	1,889,539	2,047,259
Miscellaneous Services ...	2,322,929.52	483,774	1,049,761
Municipal—Kuching ...	335,812.72	390,296	408,668
Municipal, First Division (Bau) ...	6,072.72	6,835	10,978
Municipal, Third Division (Sibu, Sarikei and Binatang)	94,627.00	133,237	124,794
Municipal, Fourth Division (Miri) ...	47,626.23	66,812	62,379
Museum and Library ...	48,956.75	61,546	58,658
Pensions and Provident Funds	886,308.13	1,025,000	456,737
Posts and Telegraphs ...	534,280.84	632,022	734,910

Part—I Expenditure.

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951 (Revised March, 1952).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Printing	213,804.73	276,218	206,152
Prisons	173,666.45	238,298	246,892
Public Works Department ..	1,152,484.66	665,144	1,320,546
Public Works Recurrent ...	536,177.90	637,715	711,003
Public Works Non-recurrent	1,933,245.97	1,347,461	836,245
Registration of Births and Deaths	—	—	3,561
Secretariat	170,220.73	287,216	370,772
Survey of Ships	2,306.13	4,894	3,605
Trade and Customs	289,683.66	553,186	587,892
Treasury	92,286.60	266,597	269,665
War Damage Claims Com- mission	50,131.82	74,056	659,904
Clerical Services	754,548.27	—	—
National Registration	147,729.63	—	—
Sociological Research	13,635.60	—	—
Rehabilitation Loans	170,557.00	—	—
Loss on Sales of Investment...	2,350.98	—	—
TOTAL ..	16,536,527.34	19,137,031	21,161,675

Part II—Expenditure.

<i>Head of Expenditure.</i>	<i>Actual 1950.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951.</i>	<i>Estimated 1951 (Revised March, 1952).</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>	
Class I—Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	2,894,552	1,645,728	1,433,296
Class II—Other Development Plan Schemes	—	780,036	409,192
Class IIA—Development Plan Loan Programme	—	—	238,831
Class III—Other Development and Reconstruction Major Works (3)	1,474,679	2,455,023	1,431,624
TOTAL ...	4,369,231	4,880,787	3,512,943

Public Debt.

The Colony has no public debt.

Assets and Liabilities.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT

31st DECEMBER, 1950.

LIABILITIES.

<i>Previous Year.</i>			\$	\$
	Deposits :—			
	Security Deposits ...	971,158.68		
1,481,696.50	Miscellaneous ...	645,317.38	1,616,476.06	
5,461,945.96	Special Funds ...	...	6,210,959.81	
298,389.28	Current Accounts ...	...	737,337.04	
2,125,714.29	Joint Colonial Fund ...	...	—
—	Trading Account—Food Control ...	...	1,523,940.17	
	Allotments :—			
	London ...	2,353.78		
6,407.71	Local ...	5,418.76	7,772.54	
32,690.10	Suspense ...	...	—
	General Revenue Balance—			
	Balance as at 1.1.50 ...	9,934,558.67		
	Add Surplus and Deficit A/C. ...	14,135,243.27		
		24,069,801.94		
	Add Appreciation of Investments ...	177,860.30		
9,934,558.67	Balance as at 31.12.1950 ...	...	24,247,662.24	
<u>19,341,402.51</u>			<u>34,344,147.86</u>	

ASSETS.

<i>Previous Year.</i>			\$	\$
2,915,936.02	Cash ...	...	3,747,847.70	
650,128.69	Fixed Deposits with Chartered Bank, Kuching ...	...	917,509.37	
—	Joint Colonial Fund ...	...	13,002,857.14	
12,612,150.77	Investments ...	...	13,484,397.14	
635,630.22	Investments, Special Funds ...	...	643,439.83	
873,730.13	Trading Account—Food Control ...	...	—
790,843.68	Advances ...	...	667,887.48	
5,616.21	Imprests ...	...	30.00	
584,990.69	Current Account ...	...	1,011,416.55	
18,156.85	Stock—Agriculture ...	...	—
190,393.30	Drafts and Remittances ...	...	232,106.52	
63,825.95	Remittances between Chests ...	...	582,939.73	
—	Suspense ...	...	53,716.40	
<u>19,341,402.51</u>			<u>34,344,147.86</u>	

Note :—

A sum of \$72,794.50 is due by His Majesty's Government in respect of underissues on the following Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes :—

Scheme D.826	...	...	\$ 650.80
Scheme D.973	...	...	64.08
Schemes D.913 & D.913A	...	...	47,763.26
Schemes D.837, R.209 & R.209A	...	...	24,316.36
			<hr/>
			\$72,794.50
			<hr/>

Taration.

The main source of income during the year 1951 was Custom Import and Export Duties which comprised approximately three-fourths of the total revenue of the Colony. The estimated figure for 1951 was \$36,750,265 including Excise Duties \$841,000.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely,

(a) Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, salt, tea, milk, coffee, soap, cosmetics and perfumery, textiles, matches, fireworks, musical instruments, cameras, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber and furniture.

(b) Export Duties on birds' nests, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted), guano, jelutong, illipe nuts, pepper, sago and rubber.

The main revenue producing items in 1951 were Import Duties on cigarettes and tobacco \$6,574,166.18, on petroleum products \$582,599.78, on textiles and wearing apparels \$1,244,093.39, on sugar \$526,584.29, and on alcoholic liquors \$1,837,348.06; and Export Duties on rubber \$19,405,195.04, on sago \$836,305.73, on pepper \$2,257,564.82, on copra \$241,331.64 and on jelutong \$284,559.51.

EXCISE AND STAMP DUTIES.

(a) *Excise.*

An Excise Ordinance came into force on the 1st January, 1951, and the revenue derived therefrom was approximately \$755,000 from the manufacture of arrack and certain Wines and \$86,000 from the manufacture of matches.

(b) Stamp Duties.

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17). The principal duties are:—

Affidavits or declarations in writing	\$ 2.50
Agreements or contracts ...	.50
Annuity (instrument creating an annuity) ...	10.00
Bill of Exchange (including cheques on bank):—	
(i) payable on demand or at sight ...	.06
(ii) of any other kind ...	10 cents for every \$100 or part thereof.
Declaration of Trust or Trust Deed	5.00
Receipts ...	6 cents on amounts exceeding \$10.00

A stamp duty of 6 cents on each cheque drawn on a bank, a document previously free of duty, was introduced in 1948.

The structure of the public accounts is such that it is not possible to quote figures of revenue arising from each individual source.

Door and Head Tax.

The system of Malay *hasil* (Head Tax) and Dayak Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. Such collections, where Local Treasuries have been instituted are, as an administrative measure, paid over to the Local Authorities in full. The "door" tax is equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in other territories, the "door" being the apartment in a Dayak long-house occupied by a single family. These combined taxes yield an annual revenue of approximately \$75,000.

Income and Similar Taxes.

On the 31st December, 1949, the Income Tax Ordinance came into force but at present tax is charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in the Colony or elsewhere. There should be paid for each year of

assessment upon the chargeable income of every company tax at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income thereof. The revised estimated revenue for the year 1951 is \$229,000, which represents a very small portion of the collectable revenue.

A Trades Licensing Ordinance was enacted at the November, 1949, meeting of the Council Negri and this came into force on the 1st January, 1950. This Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees to be paid by the different categories of businesses are as follows:—

1. A licence to carry on the business of a
wholesale trader—

For the principal or only place of business	... ..	\$ 400
For each subsidiary place of business	...	200

Provided that, if the person who carries on the business deals or trades only in goods manufactured, made or treated by him at the place of such business, the fee shall be—

For the principal or only place of business	... ..	100
For each subsidiary place of business	...	50
2. A licence to carry on the business of a retail
trader including importation from places
beyond the Colony—

For the principal or only place of business or where the business is not carried on at any defined premises	... ..	150
For each subsidiary place of business	...	50

Provided that no person shall be deemed to be an importer who carries on a business as a handicraftsman and only imports raw materials for the purpose of his trade or business and not for resale of such raw materials.
3. A licence to carry on the business of a retail
trader not including importation from
places beyond the Colony, for each place of
business

50

4. A licence to carry on the business of a banker (including any branches or agencies)	2,500
5. (1) A licence to carry on the business of shipping or air transport in the Colony ...	400
(2) A licence to carry on the business of shipping in respect of vessels engaged only in the carriage coastwise or in the waterways of the Colony of passengers or cargo	50
(3) A licence to carry on the business of an agent of a shipping or air transport business which has no place of business in the Colony including any sub-agency in the Colony ...	200
For two or more such agencies ...	400
6. A licence to carry on the business of a contractor at any place in the Colony ...	400
Provided that where the total number of persons employed on the contract work at any one time does not exceed 20 then only half the above fee shall be charged.	
7. A licence to carry on the business of letting taxis or passenger or goods service vehicles for hire, or of a passenger omnibus service—	
If three or more vehicles are used in the business ...	100
If two or less vehicles are used in the business ...	50
8. A licence to carry on the business of a remittance shop ...	300
8A. A licence to carry on the business of a barber or men's hairdresser, in respect of each chair ...	10
Provided that the maximum annual fee for such licence shall be fifty dollars in respect of any one business.	
9. A licence to carry on any other business ...	50
10. Duplicate licences ...	2
11. Any transfer of a licence ...	2

Estate Duties.

The rates of Estate Duties were amended in 1948. Some relief on small estates was granted whilst a heavier duty was imposed on the larger estates.

The revised rates came into force on 1st September, 1948, and are as follows:—

Where the value of the estate exceeds:—

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed \$ 3,000	...	1	per cent
3,000	„	5,000	1½ „
5,000	„	7,000	2½ „
7,500	„	10,000	3½ „
10,000	„	20,000	5 „
20,000	„	40,000	7½ „
40,000	„	70,000	10 „
70,000	„	100,000	15 „
Over 100,000		...	20 „

Entertainment Tax.

Entertainment tax is at present charged at the following rates:—

Where the payment including the amount of the duty—		
does not exceed 50 cents	...	10 per cent. of such payment.
exceeds 50 cents	...	20 per cent. of such payment.

V

Currency and Banking.

Currency.

Since the conclusion of the war Malayan currency has been issued in Sarawak, in the first instance to provide a common currency for the three British Borneo territories during the Military Administration. No new issue of Sarawak currency has been made since re-occupation and none is intended. The following currencies are legal tender in Sarawak :—

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

Sarawak currency is gradually being withdrawn from circulation and is being replaced by Malayan currency. So far as is known there is no British North Borneo currency in circulation in Sarawak. The remaining Sarawak currency in circulation is amply covered by gilt-edged securities in the London market.

At the 31st December, 1951, there was \$38,710,956 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$1,598,042 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$961,444 in notes and \$636,598 in coins. There was an increase of \$6,500,000 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$199,400 of Sarawak currency notes were withdrawn during the same period.

Banking.

Banking facilities in Sarawak are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, in Kuching, Sibu and Miri and the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching.

In addition there are four small Chinese Trading banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank and the Wah Tat Bank.

Post Office Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank at the end of 1951 was 4,897 as compared with 3,385 at

the end of 1950. The amount of credit to depositors was \$3,001,548 as against \$1,269,542 in 1950. During the year deposits amounted to \$2,243,055 which exceeded withdrawals by \$1,657,882.

VI

Commerce.

The pattern of commerce in Sarawak in 1951 was not materially different from that in previous years, though an increasing interest in co-operative stores and other co-operative undertakings was apparent. A few companies engaged mainly in production also import and export on their own account; but, generally speaking, the commerce of the Colony is conducted by:—

- (i) The Agency Houses, of which there are few, and
- (ii) The Chinese Wholesale and Retail Merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses. The most important are the leading European companies, but there are also Chinese firms holding valuable agencies. These Houses import either from the United Kingdom, Singapore or other countries, proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. They hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their Principals, (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business, and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese Merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large Rubber Estates that exist and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "Production" e.g., the Timber business.

The Chinese Merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Not all firms even trading under Chinese names are composed solely of Chinese members, though this is generally the case; there are however a number of Indian merchants trading almost exclusively in textiles.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrived direct from the United Kingdom, Australia or other sources, i.e., upon a through bill of lading (and even this would

normally necessitate transshipment in Singapore). Most of the commodities imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export. Shipments of sago and rubber to other countries however are frequent, and most of Sarawak's exports of oil and timber are shipped to places further away than Malaya; the United Kingdom having now replaced Australia as the major immediate destination of the latter commodity.

The importation of goods from the United Kingdom and other distant sources is almost entirely in the hands of the few Europeans' firms, but generally speaking the whole trade of the country passes, at some stage or other, through the Chinese Merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are, of course, some shops which engage solely in the sale of goods for cash (or more often on credit—the system in almost universal use) but many combines the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display; sharks' fins, birdsnests, salted squids, blachan and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved. Often the small bazaar shop keeps stocks of every commodity its customers could possibly need, a system well suited to the practice of "tying" customers to the shop by extensive credit, and frequently resulting in there being several shops side by side all offering for sale a virtually similar display. Often, too, in the up-country bazaars the Chinese Merchant must provide lodging in his shophouse for his Dayak and other customers: he is their host, their banker, and their universal supplier.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associate firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber, pepper and jungle produce, which has been obtained by sale or barter. Such jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas, of which

jelutong is employed in the manufacture of chewing gum, and such piquant items as dragon's blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the people, for which they cannot and do not provide themselves, are very few; but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the local people, who may set their hearts on any object outside their natural partiality for gold and silver ornaments. The other things they venerate vary with the local tribal custom, and amongst these is a certain type of earthenware jar, large, glazed and urnlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shotguns and outboard motors are universally esteemed for utility and prestige.

Very little weaving is now done locally, so that imported cloth has become a necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns, very little more than oils and salt for lighting and cooking are really needed by the local people except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great is the variety of goods normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar. Such are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Certain Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of sago flour for export, and this is in the nature of a specialized trade. Sago exports fell off sharply in 1951. The Department of Trade and Customs grades sago exported and ascertains moisture content.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price that the crop, when ultimately produced, would fetch; and during the Japanese occupation it was abandoned altogether; but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of "grub-staking", and they are once again doing so. Dayaks in some areas are also beginning to grow pepper. There was a remarkable increase in the amount of pepper exported from the Rejang River area during 1951, due to the vines of new or rehabilitated gardens in the Sarikei area approaching maturity and producing the first real crop since the war. The Department of Trade and Customs recommenced grading and sealing Sarawak pepper during the year, also for the first time since the war.

External Trade.

The aggregate value of external trade for the year 1951 was \$892,094,893 as compared with \$663,917,195 for the year 1950, and \$78,415,599 for the pre-occupation year 1940.

This total is comprised as follows :—

			1951.
Total Exports	...	...	\$508,349,436
Total Imports	...	...	383,745,457
Favourable Trade Balance			<u>\$124,603,979</u>

Trade Balance.

The favourable trade balance figure of \$124,603,979 is misleading since in the total exports of \$508,349,436, exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$303,186,679.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports in 1951 being \$262,813,614. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak (now only a comparatively small quantity) is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleums are included in the total value of exports.

Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the State of Brunei and in Sarawak itself, the trade balance for 1951 would be \$84,230,914. This compares with \$51,026,410 for 1950, and is made up as follows :—

Total Exports	...	...	\$205,162,757
Total Imports	...	...	120,931,843
			<u>\$ 84,230,914</u>

While the figure of \$124,603,979 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$84,230,914 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into account such production of oil as there was in Sarawak.

Imports.

The declared value of imports for 1951 was \$383,745,457 made up as follows :—

	1951.	as compared with	
		1950.	1940.
	\$	\$	\$
Foodstuffs	51,513,562	32,372,183	9,770,805
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc.	13,933,150	15,077,527	2,796,708
Petroleum, crude and refined	267,067,229	202,348,152	8,844,626
Tobacco	9,654,841	6,534,368	2,556,131
Manufactured goods and sundries	41,576,675	32,998,474	8,850,609
	<u>\$383,745,457</u>	<u>\$289,330,704</u>	<u>\$32,818,879</u>

Throughout the year the only commodities imported on Government procurement were rice and sugar. Flour, butter, meats, fats and cheese though still on quota were procured through normal commercial channels. Bazaar trade was brisk with supply of consumer goods adequate. The cost of almost all imported commodities rose steadily, and to some extent offset the increase in the purchasing power of the populace brought about by the sustained improved price of rubber, the Colony's main industry. There were substantial increases in the quantities of many classes of goods imported as compared with 1950 which clearly reflected the improved purchasing power of the public in general. Considerable increases in imports of aviation spirit and prawn refuse resulted from more frequent air services and expansion of pepper cultivation respectively.

The cost of all basic foodstuffs in 1951 showed an increase compared with that in 1950. The respective declared values were :—

	1951.	1950.
Rice	\$ 415.65 per ton	\$ 404.29 per ton
Flour	408.77 " "	400.46 " "
Sugar	671.46 " "	514.87 " "
Salt	73.94 " "	52.02 " "
Milk	1,500.91 " "	1,295.62 " "

Compared with 1940 values the 1951 values show an advance of :—

Rice	4.40 times
Flour	3.42 " "
Sugar	4.11 " "
Salt	1.49 " "
Milk	2.95 " "

Exports.

The f.o.b. value of exports for 1951, \$508,349,436 was composed as under :—

	1951.	as compared with	
		1950.	1949.
	\$	\$	\$
Petroleum, crude and refined	303,186,679	230,308,089	11,446,818
Rubber	158,865,402	113,941,617	26,167,140
Sago Flour	7,988,232	9,277,842	2,184,997
Pepper	17,925,184	4,107,166	362,569
Jelutong	2,310,331	1,795,932	775,209
Various guttas	160,662	265,903	145,930
Damar	613,829	501,366	88,638
Copra	2,654,196	2,651,451	70,629
Timber, sawn and logs	4,727,834	2,839,725	89,840
Sundries	9,917,087	8,897,400	4,438,587
	<u>\$508,349,436</u>	<u>\$374,586,491</u>	<u>\$45,770,407</u>

As compared with 1950, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 4,055,954 tons to 4,947,598 tons. It is not possible, for the reason explained above under the heading "Trade Balance" to assess the true value these exports have to the country's economy. Crude oil won in Sarawak amounted to 51,708 long tons as against 56,601 long tons in 1950.

Exports of rubber amounting to 42,521 tons in 1951 compared with 55,475 tons in 1950, but as shown above, the value was appreciably higher. Although by far the largest proportion of these exports was shipped with Singapore as the only declared destination, it is of interest to observe that the next principal destination on through bills of lading was the United Kingdom, followed by three European continental countries.

The drop in the tonnage of sago flour exported from 38,243 tons in 1950 to 23,945 tons in 1951 is only partially reflected in the lower value in the latter year. The United Kingdom and India retained their positions as principal destinations on through bills of lading, with Singapore receiving only a comparatively very small quantity.

Exports of timber, sawn and as logs, continued their encouraging trend, being 54,528 tons in 1951 compared with 44,133 tons in 1950 and 36,607 tons in 1949.

Exports of copra of 3,864 tons in 1951 compared with 4,230 tons in 1950, but as shown above the value was slightly higher. Exports of pepper began to show signs of real recovery with 1,209½ tons in 1951 as compared with 282 tons in 1950. Many items exported in 1951 showed substantially decreased tonnage compared with 1950, though these were of relatively minor importance.

As also in previous years, Tanjong Mani at the mouth of the Rejang River continued to increase in importance as a shipping centre. In 1950 26 vessels of 80,701 nett tons called: in 1951 33 vessels used the anchorage, chiefly for loading timber. Customs facilities with a godown and jetty are to be provided at this new port. The nett registered tonnage of foreign shipping using various Sarawak ports in 1951 was—

Kuching	...	238 vessels	77,211 tons
Sibu	...	84 „	32,191 „
Miri	..	880 „	2,169,945 „
(of which 496 were tankers)			
Tanjong Mani...		33 vessels	91,465 „

A particular point of interest in 1951 was the remarkable increase in the use of the parcel post. Mainly owing to the very high handling charges in Singapore for goods sent by ship, many merchants—particularly textile dealers—have begun importing by the parcel post. At least twice as many parcels were received in the Colony from outside in 1951 as in the previous year.

Customs Revenue.

The total Customs revenue for 1951 amounted to \$35,467,560 composed as follows:—

as compared with

		1951.	1950.	1940.
Import Duty	...	\$12,338,783	\$ 8,869,679	\$2,252,028
Export Duty	...	23,128,777	14,765,843	1,278,254
		<u>\$35,467,560</u>	<u>\$23,635,522</u>	<u>\$3,530,282</u>

This remarkable rise in revenue resulted mainly from the sustained higher prices of the Colony's principal exports—in particular rubber, with concomitant increase of imports due to higher purchasing ability.

In the early part of 1950 the Department of Trade and Customs undertook the sealing in small standard packages of Siam tobacco imported in bulk. It is interesting to note that the revenue from import duty on this tobacco was—

for	1949.	1950.	1951.
	\$245,896	\$525,810	\$565,825

Lack of experienced and educated outdoor staff, largely a continuing result of the Japanese occupation, proved a handicap to the Department of Trade and Customs throughout the year, though there was some small improvement. The increased use of Tanjong Mani as a port has meant added calls on departmental services. Lack of adequate godown accommodation, however, remained by far the greatest obstacle faced by the Department, and in Kuching the delayed arrival of steel for a new Import Godown is lamentable. The fact that only very few commodities imported are individually crated necessitates detailed examination of almost every single package on arrival, involving provision of much floor space; and in Sibu particularly—as well as in Kuching—the present situation in this respect is not satisfactory. It is apparent also that wharf facilities will soon have to be considerably extended.

Tariffs.

The only alteration to the Customs Tariffs during the year was made in September when the following articles were added to the Import tariff:

Rifles and Guns	... per barrel	\$5.00
Pistols and Revolvers	... each	3.00
Cartridges (loaded or empty)	... per 100	1.00

Excise.

An Excise Ordinance, enacted in 1950, came into force on 1st January, 1951. One factory previously operating under the Monopolies Ordinance, immediately came under the new Ordinance in so far as its production of liquor was concerned. A new distillery for the manufacture of liquor was also established near Kuching and commenced operations early in the year. Later, a further distillery was completed at Sibu, and is almost certainly one of the largest in this part of the world.

Simultaneously with the coming into force of the Excise Ordinance the old system of "arrack farm" operating under the Monopolies Ordinance was abolished. Besides establishing a better standard quality of locally-distilled liquor, revenue from this source was also materially increased. Excise Duty collected in 1951 from the three licensed distilleries amounted to \$755,918 whereas in the previous year only \$421,576 was derived from rents and fees paid by the old arrack farms, and from duty paid by one distillery.

Revenue continued to be collected on excise lines also from the Sarawak Match Factory, still operating under the Monopolies Ordinance. \$86,040 was obtained in 1951 from this source, compared with \$90,900 in 1950.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

	1951.	1950.	1940.
Total Exports	\$508,349,436	\$374,586,491	\$45,770,407
Total Imports	383,745,457	289,330,704	32,645,192
	<u>\$892,094,893</u>	<u>\$663,917,195</u>	<u>\$78,415,599</u>

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

	1951.		1950.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Beans and Peas ...	... Tons	1,192 \$ 669,846	1,053 \$ 491,794	
Biscuits ...	... "	1,322 1,624,349	1,492 1,432,784	
Boots and Shoes ...	... Doz. pairs	33,313 947,068	31,635 635,166	
Butter and Cheese ...	... Tons	55 185,192	57 172,322	
Cloth—Cotton, Silk and Woollen ...	... Sq. yards	8,718,730 7,860,532	13,397,860 8,848,229	
Clothing—Cotton, Silk and Woollen ...	... Dozens	79,431 1,118,946	111,416 1,212,294	
Coffee—Raw and Ground ...	... Tons	343 821,358	478 836,809	
Crockery and Glassware ...	...	785,678	794,032	
Cycles, Motor Cycles and Accessories ...	...	1,441,087	754,971	
Chemicals and Drugs ...	...	2,830,374	2,523,941	
Electrical Goods and Apparatus ...	...	1,153,790	1,009,213	
Fish, Dried, Salted and in Tins ...	... Tons	2,951 3,824,738	2,800 3,132,719	
Flour, Wheat ...	... "	2,477 1,012,545	3,279 1,913,123	
Fruits, Fresh, Dried and Preserved ...	... "	1,004 1,067,569	792 771,962	
Iron, Steel, etc., and Manufactures thereof ...	...	3,753,248	3,208,646	
Machinery ...	...	6,265,387	3,854,690	
Milk, Condensed, Sterilized, etc. ...	... "	1,990 2,986,827	1,733 2,245,308	
Motor Lorries, Cars and Accessories ...	...	1,399,799	756,364	
Oil—Lubricating, Kerosene, Benzine, Crude and Liquid Fuel ...	... Cu. feet	4,915,667 263,631,003	4,072,802 201,692,454	
Petroleum Gas—Natural ...	... Cu. feet	1,744,904,000 436,226	1,822,776,000 455,698	
Rice ...	... Tons	31,413 13,056,856	19,331 7,815,269	
Salt ...	... "	3,492 258,193	3,357 174,647	
Soap ...	...	1,040,003	522,162	
<hr/>				
Tea and Tea-leaf ...	...	1,556,087	1,516,597	
Tobacco, in Tins, Cigars and Cigarettes ...	...	1,264,157 9,100,700 lbs.	1,022,015 9,379,168	
Vegetables, Fresh, Salted and Preserved ...	...	1,700 1,982,569	1,180 1,011,591	
		598,452 3,519,055 lbs.	249,433 1,011,245	

1950.

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.—(Contd.)

Stationery and Books	...	702,834			710,074
Sugar	...	10,578		6,528	3,361,059
Tea	...	98		103	376,880
Twine and Threads	...				1,215,667
Tobacco, in tins, Cigars and Cigarettes	...	1,254,157	9,169,769 Lbs.		
Vegetables, Fresh Salted and Preserved	...	1,700	1,582,563		
Wines and Spirits	...	588,352	3,519,055 Gls.	1,189	941,791
	...			249,433	1,611,245
	...			1,022,015	6,273,458

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

		Quantity.	1951.		Quantity.	1950.	
			Value.			Value.	
Betelnuts (Arecanuts)	.. Tons	16	\$ 2,736	Tons	16	\$ 2,303	
Peeswax	...	1	1,730	"	1	1,065	
Bird-nests, Edible	...	9½	54,397	"	10½	51,258	
Canes	...		44,171	"		72,915	
Copra	...	3,864	2,654,196	"	4,230	2,651,451	
Damar	...	964	613,809	"	1,508	501,366	
Fish—Fresh, Dried and Salted	...	75½	92,496	"	100	153,195	
Gutta—Jangkar	...	43	79,414	"	47	51,269	
Jelutong, Raw	...	110	117,210	"	253	158,033	
Jelutong, Refined	...	487	1,275,327	"	456	833,663	
Jelutong, Pressed	...	498	917,794	"	835	804,236	
Percha	...	9	67,849	"	43	214,643	
Nipah Sugar	...	139	58,387	"	398	118,905	
Oil—Vegetable	...	27	32,124	"	1	1,213	
Crude Petroleum	...	3,206,152	200,414,197	"	2,356,997	136,855,336	
Refined Petroleum	...	1,741,446	102,772,482	"	1,698,957	93,452,753	
Pepper	...	1,209½	17,925,184	"	282	4,107,166	
Prawns, Dried	...	54	165,483	"	86	224,211	
Rattans	...	1,006	344,584	"	1,046	207,599	
Rubber, Plantation	...	42,521	158,805,402	"	55,475	113,941,617	
Sago Flour	...	23,945	7,988,232	"	38,243	9,277,842	
Timber	...	54,528	4,727,834	"	44,133	2,839,725	
Cutch	...	15,600	501,820 Cwts.	"	35,369	1,153,354	

VII

Production.

A. AGRICULTURE.

The country has an area of about 47,000 square miles of which it is estimated about 13,000 square miles are used for agricultural purposes. The 1947 census showed a population of about 546,400 persons; the overall population density is therefore low, averaging only 11.4 persons per square mile. It has been estimated that on the basis of existing methods of subsistence farming—which is the only sound method on which to assess short-term potentialities for agricultural development—the country could not safely support a rural population of more than 2½ million people.

Preliminary surveys show that approximately 5,600 square miles of the flat deltaic and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamp, at or near sea level, which is in its present condition, unsuitable for agriculture. It is probable that reclamation, by normal methods of empoldering, of most of this deep peat swamp land for wet padi cultivation would be impracticable and uneconomic. There are, however, considerable areas of moderately good wet padi land, estimated at a total of not more than 2,000 square miles, situated mainly on the river-banks in the deltaic areas.

The remainder of the country, that is the hinterland and interior, consists largely of steep hills and mountains. Occasional flat areas occur in the valleys between the hills, but such areas form only a very small proportion of the whole. The soils of the hinterland and interior are generally extremely thin and poor by ordinary standards, and their poverty has frequently been accentuated by severe erosion and leaching. There are limited outcrops of basic and intermediate igneous rocks, and of limestones; where these do occur there is a local marked improvement fertility of the alluvial soils in that area.

Favourable climatic conditions do to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils, and wherever there is even a moderate depth of reasonably friable soil vegetative

growth is often surprisingly vigorous. The average annual rainfall is of the order of 160 inches. In the southwestern part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and February. In the northeastern part of the country the maxima and minima are not so pronounced, and the distribution of rainfall is more uniform. Shade temperature averages 80°F and there is little variation from this average, minima below 70°F or maxima above 90°F not often being recorded. Atmospheric humidity is generally high; though sometimes, particularly during a dry spell, there is a marked drop in relative humidity in the forenoon. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will only be about five hours bright sunshine per day.

Pest damage on crops can be extremely serious at times; observations suggest insect pests may be more serious than fungoid pests, though it is possible that as more intensive cultivation is practised fungoid pests may become a greater menace. Small animals particularly rats and squirrels, are a major pest; and wild pigs, monkeys and deer can also do considerable damage. Giant snails are also becoming a pest of increasing importance.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small farms are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the native farmer to develop the country's agriculture by working a mixed system of farming, rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that some control over the farmer will be necessary, if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of "group farming" units. The prospects for development of co-operative societies for the country's rural industries are promising.

The developmental work of the Department of Agriculture has been seriously hindered since the war by the acute shortage of trained and experienced staff. Difficulties consequent on this shortage have been aggravated by the primitive state of the country's communications. The position is still difficult but has eased somewhat since the establishment in 1951 with financial assistance from the Colonial Development and

Welfare Fund of a permanent Department of Agriculture Staff Training School near Kuching.

Much of the Department's efforts since the Liberation have been concentrated on preliminary surveys and investigation work necessitated by the dearth of previously recorded technical information about agricultural conditions.

Some development schemes have now been started and, considering the difficulties that have to be contended with, good progress is being made. Most of the schemes have been dependent to a considerable extent on financial assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund and indeed without this assistance the schemes could not have been started. The main schemes are group wet-padi-farming projects at Payas Megok and Paloh in First Division, at Bijat in Second Division, and Rantau Panjang in Third Division, at Limbang in Fifth Division and more recently at Sibuti in Fourth Division. A main agricultural station is now in full operation at Tarat in First Division and other small stations are being established in other parts of the country. By the end of 1951 all these development centres throughout the country had become striking demonstrations of what can be achieved in Sarawak by stabilised intensive methods of farming as opposed to the shifting land robbing that is all too common at present; the results of this work leave little doubt that Sarawak could safely support a very much higher population than the 2½ million people suggested earlier in this section provided the methods advocated by the Department of Agriculture were widely adopted.

The position with regard to particular crops is briefly as follows:—

(1) *Padi*. This is the main crop. There is no doubt technically that Sarawak could be self-supporting in rice, its staple foodstuff. In fact, when prices for the main export products are low and there is little money available in the rural areas for purchase of imported rice, the country does of necessity approach self-sufficiency in this commodity. When however, prices of export products are high (as in 1950 and 1951 when rubber and pepper fetched record prices) interest in padi planting wanes, and Sarawak may become dependent on imports for as much as half its rice requirements.

Imports have continued since the war and have been as follows :—

1947	...	19,272	metric tons.
1948	...	17,525	„ „
1949	...	11,517	„ „
1950	...	25,478	„ „
1951	...	31,907	„ „

The Government has had a padi purchasing scheme in operation since late 1946 and has guaranteed a minimum buying price for locally grown padi. For a time the scheme undoubtedly encouraged padi production but during the rubber and pepper boom most of the ground gained has unfortunately been lost. Now that there has been a fall in the price of rubber and pepper it is expected that greater interest will be taken by the farmers in the scheme.

A destructive method of shifting hill or dry padi cultivation, which is bringing very serious problems in its train, accounts for a considerable part of the padi produced; powers to control and rationalise this practice are now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance.

Swamp or wet padi is cultivated, mainly in the deltaic and coastal areas. The methods employed are generally primitive and yields are often low. There is great scope for intensification of cultivation on the wet padi land, particularly as far as improved water control is concerned. Even in the wet season, short dry periods which can have a disastrous effect on the padi, are liable to occur, and provision of some irrigation water is generally necessary. The terrain makes construction of gravity fed canals generally difficult or impracticable, but considerable success is being obtained with small, diesel driven, pumping plants raising water from the rivers which usually flow adjacent to the padi land.

The 1950-51 crop was fair. Forecasts for the 1951-52 are generally excellent but unfortunately the acreage is well below average as farmers have given so much attention to the more profitable rubber and pepper crops.

(2) *Rubber.* Rubber is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important agricultural export. It was estimated in 1941 that there were approximately 240,000 acres under rubber, of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by small holdings each less than 5 acres in size. It is possible that the acreage increased during the

war. Most of the acreage is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition and must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. Rubber prices which, in 1950 reached a phenomenal level, remained high during 1951 and the industry was extremely prosperous. There is now considerable interest in planting and replanting of rubber with high yielding material and suitable budwood and clonal seed are being supplied by the Department of Agriculture. In order to guard against planting on land needed for wet padi and suitable for that purpose, it has again become necessary to control planting by reimposition of certain sections of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance which had been suspended in 1946. A small modern factory for processing latex collected from surrounding smallholders has recently been erected near Kuching and is operating successfully; the success of this pilot scheme suggests that such small centralised factories may well be the answer to the problem of improving the quality of rubber exported from Sarawak.

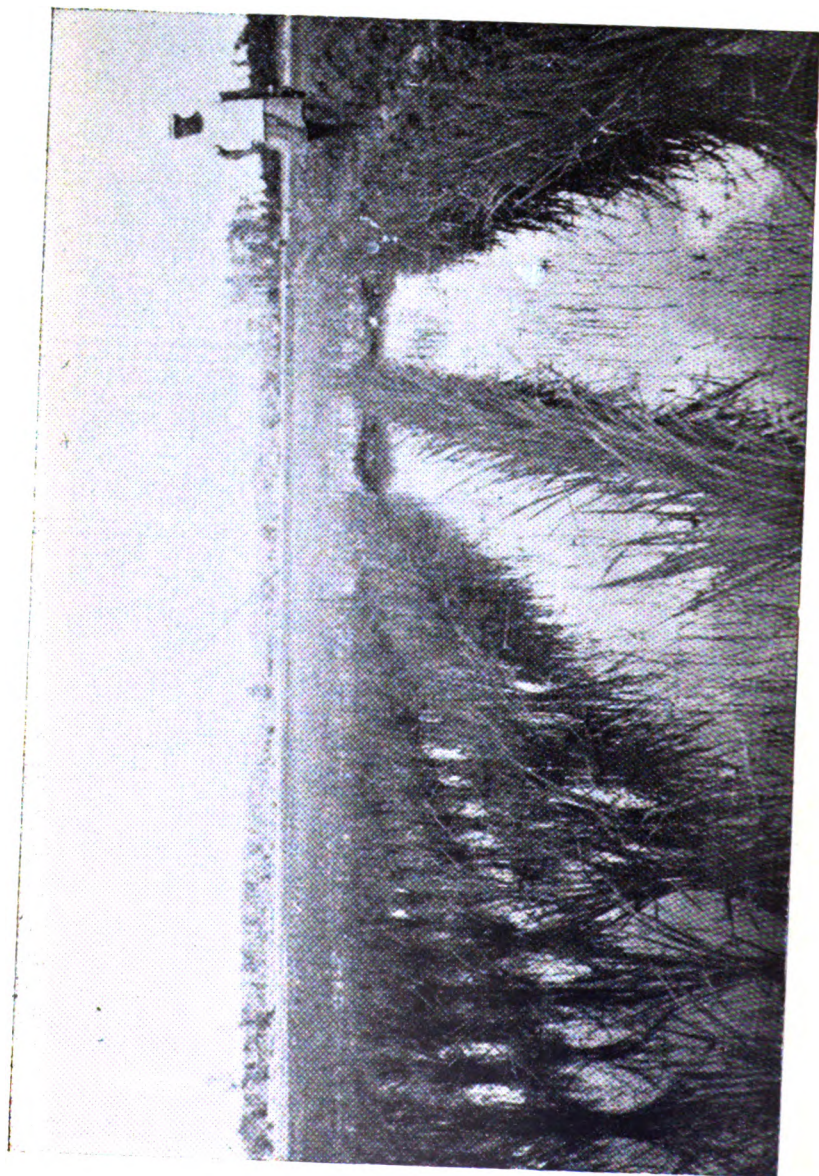
(3) *Sago*. It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres under sago cultivation, the major part lying in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division and being worked principally by Melanaus. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available but, taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young, immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. For a time after the Liberation, production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the plantations were in consequence overworked; the average quality of the product was very poor. Production is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting. Since the passing of the Sago Flour (Control of Exports) Ordinance, 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; the more progressive sections of the trade have on the whole co-operated well and there has been some improvement in the general quality of the sago flour exports. Investigations which are being made into the technical properties of sago flour suggest that its potentialities as a source of industrial starch may not yet be fully appreciated and the matter is being pursued as far as available facilities allow.

SARAWAK ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.



[Photographed by I. A. N. Urquhart.

Agricultural Development. Sorghum. Simanggang, Second Division. Crops such as this produced on land formerly covered by fern and other Native vegetation are producing over 1600 lbs of seed and 7000 lbs of leafage and straw all of which is a palatable and valuable stock feed.



[Photographed by M. McSparran.
Agricultural Development, 2nd Division. Selection and production of high quality strain seed is one of the many works being carried out on the Bijat padi scheme. Irrigation in this area also produces good results.

(4) *Pepper*. This was an important export product before the war; quality was generally good and the best grades commanded the highest prices offered in the world markets. Unfortunately most of the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation but considerable replanting has taken place recently and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines is now at least equal to the pre-war total and is still increasing rapidly owing to the excellent prices ruling. The vines are planted in small gardens, frequently less than half an acre in extent; unfortunately most of the pepper is still cultivated under a pernicious system of shifting cultivation but it is hoped that it will be possible to minimise the worst effects with powers available under the Natural Resources Ordinance, 1950. Exports of all types of pepper totalled 20,160 piculs in 1951; quality was not up to pre-war standard but is improving. Exports in 1952 may reach a total of 40,000 piculs.

(5) *Coconuts*. This is mainly a smallholder's crop, largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage occupied by the crop is estimated at 21,000 acres, though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra is exported.

(6) *Tuba Root*. (Derris) has been cultivated in the past, but production and export are now small. Planting is being encouraged as there is a good export demand.

(7) *Gambier* was an important product many years ago, but production is now negligible.

(8) *Pineapples* of high quality and exceptional flavour are produced in small quantities on drained peat soils.

(9) *Tobacco*. Small areas are planted by the local inhabitants for their own use. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

(10) *Coffee* is cultivated to a small extent in plots adjacent to the villages.

(11) *Cocoa* is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak but some observation plots recently established by the Department of Agriculture show promise, particularly on the better types of land. About five hundred seedlings raised in quarantine in Malaya from clean selected seed obtained from the Gold Coast and recently imported into Sarawak by the Department of Agriculture are making satisfactory progress and

beginning to come into bearing; the trees are being used as the basis of a seed production station.

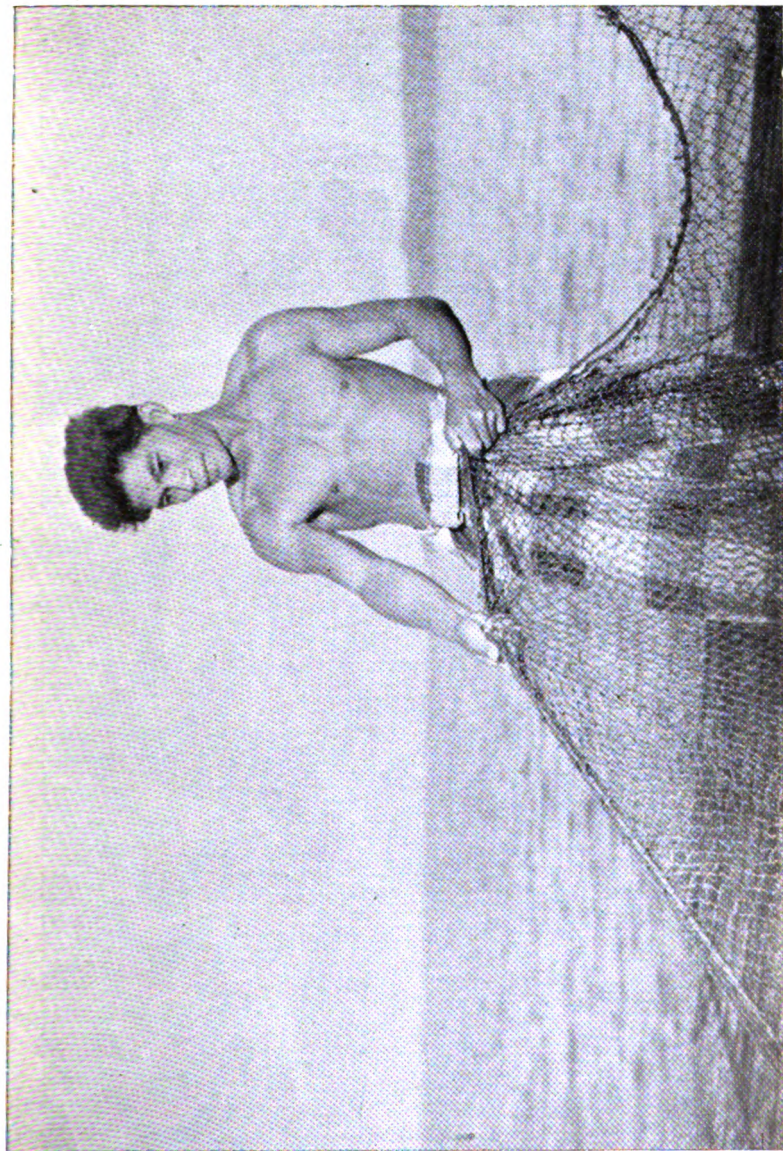
(12) *Fresh Fruit and Vegetables* are produced near the towns for local consumption. Vegetable production is generally in the hands of Chinese gardeners.

(B) ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

Livestock husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Bullocks are rarely seen. There are in the Fifth Division herds of buffaloes, estimated to total of 5,600 head, used for meat and for cultivating the swamp padi fields, but elsewhere the number of buffaloes is negligible. Small herds of cows are kept, mainly by Indians near the towns. In order to meet the need for increasing stocks, control is now exercised over the slaughter of cows and female buffaloes suitable for breeding. Pigs are kept by Chinese smallholders and are also generally found in and around Dayak villages. There is scope for the development of pork production provided the supply of feeding stuffs can be improved, and this matter is being given increased attention; some pure bred Middle Whites have been introduced by the Department of Agriculture and are proving very suitable for crossing with local pigs. Ducks are easy to keep and fit in well with local farming systems; farmers are being encouraged to keep more ducks. Some domestic fowl are found in the villages, but they do not do well in Sarawak except in the hands of the really skilled and experienced poultry keeper; however some success is being obtained with flocks made up with Rhode Island Red day-old chicks imported from Australia by air. The Malays keep a few goats. Disease is probably an important factor limiting development of livestock husbandry in Sarawak and full scientific investigation of the matter will eventually be necessary; considerable success has already been obtained by inoculating poultry against Ranikhet disease.

(C) FISHERIES.

Fish forms a staple food for many of the country's inhabitants, and both marine and freshwater fisheries are of considerable importance. Marine fishing is the main source of supply, most of the catch being obtained from the shallow,



[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

A Malay fisherman at work.

SARAWAK ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.



[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

A typical Malay house in a fishing village near Kuching.

coastal waters by Malay, Melanau, and Chinese (Henghua) fishermen. A surplus of certain varieties occurs and in 1951 exports of fresh fish totalled 419 piculs valued at \$16,500. Production of other types which are widely consumed is insufficient to meet local needs and imports of dried, salted and canned fish in 1951 totalled 2,026,021 piculs valued at \$3,813,085.

The fishing methods used along the coasts may appear crude to the casual observer, but anyone acquainted with sea fishing is soon impressed by the simplicity, ingenuity, and suitability for local conditions of the fish catching contrivances employed. The fishermen display considerable skill and a high standard of seamanship. A survey of local sea fisheries has recently been completed, and the results confirm that there are not the concentrations of fish in Sarawak waters to justify large scale fishing. Nor have indications yet been obtained of any large fish concentrations worth serious attention in the deeper waters further off shore. Experiments with modern temperate water methods have also suggested that these were unlikely to be successful in the local waters. However there seems to be scope for some mechanisation of existing local methods, and this on even a limited scale might lead to self-sufficiency in home markets and increased exports of certain varieties.

Improvements in the transport and marketing systems are possible and it is hoped to devote more attention in future to these aspects of the industry perhaps as subjects for co-operative development.

Conditions are generally suitable for freshwater fish farming and some Chinese farmers successfully obtain large yields of fish, but unfortunately some of the most important species do not breed in Sarawak and fry have to be imported from China. Recent investigations suggest however that the rate of breeding, and of growth of small edible indigenous fish in the smaller streams, can be increased by methods that are cheaper and simpler than those applied in the elaborate fish ponds used by Chinese farmers. Feeding at selected points seems to increase breeding and help growth considerably, although it does not appear to be essential to the existence of the fish.

(D) FORESTRY.

The Forest Department staff now consists of 117 officers of all ranks, including 5 members of the Colonial Forest Service. The administration is organised on a Divisional basis, with an Assistant Conservator, who is directly responsible to the Conservator, in charge of each Division. One Assistant Conservator is seconded to Brunei as State Forest Officer.

Practically the whole natural vegetation of Sarawak can be included in the term Low Land Tropical Rain Forest if areas of scrub forest subject to shifting cultivation, and relatively small areas of poor "Moss Forest" on the exposed ridges of the higher hills, are omitted. The forests in general consist of evergreen varieties of every mixed nature; it is estimated that the number of indigenous tree species is more than 2,500, over 100 of which may occur on a single acre; however, not more than about 250 of these species can be considered of commercial importance as timber. The whole area of lowland tropical rain forest covers approximately 34,000 square miles, or 72 per cent of the land area of the Colony. Much of this forest is still inaccessible but, if the internal communications of the country can be improved, most of it must be regarded as potentially productive.

This great stretch of rain forest can be divided into a number of classes dependent mainly on soil types. The principal classes are described below.

(i) *Mangrove Swamps*. These are tidal swamps situated in sheltered places at the mouths of some of the larger rivers. The forest is similar to other mangroves occurring throughout the eastern tropics and their most valuable products are firewood, charcoal and cutch. Their total area is estimated at 466 square miles, but only about half of this contains true mangrove, the remainder being occupied by nipah palm or by very poor forest in the drier parts of the swamp.

(ii) *Peat-Swamp Forest*. The greater part of the coastal belt of Sarawak consists of swampy land with a deep peat soil. These swamps at places extend for as much as 50 miles inland, and cover over 6,000 square miles. About 5,770 square miles of this is forest of a very valuable type which, owing to its accessibility, now forms the chief source of the Colony's timber supplies. Various distinct sub-types of swamp forest occur.

Of these the most important can best be described as Mixed Swamp Forest, in which the principal timber trees are usually ramin, various species of meranti, medang jongkong, semayur, kapur payar and jelutong. Another very interesting type is alan forest, often almost pure and estimated to cover an area of approximately 800 square miles.

(iii) "*Kerangas*" or "*Heath Forest*". This type of vegetation occurs on areas of very poor, acid soil scattered throughout the country and probably not aggregating more than 3,000 square miles. Much of this forest is of very poor quality and even in the better parts the trees are of comparatively small size. Nevertheless these forests are often of considerable value. In places they contain almost pure stands of ru ronang, which is one of the world's best fuel woods; and they also carry fairly rich stands of the conifers bindang and sempilor, which are not otherwise available except on steep and inaccessible hills.

(iv) *Riparian Forest*. Rather narrow strips of riverine alluvial soils, rarely more than half a mile wide, carry a special type of forest which varies mainly in accordance with the nature and speed of the rivers. In the upper reaches of fast flowing streams, the forest often consists chiefly of various species of engkabang, which are the main source of the valuable, oil-bearing illipe nut. Where the streams first change to comparatively slow-flowing rivers, however, the nature of the forest changes too, and belian usually becomes the most important species. Riparian forests of this type probably do not total more than a few hundred square miles.

(v) *Other Types*. The remaining forest, covering about 25,000 square miles, is found on various less specialised soils. It is very mixed, containing a multitude of species, dominated, however, by those belonging to one botanical family, the Dipterocarpaceae. The forest is very dense, and the trees reach a considerable size, the forest roof being generally about 150 feet above the ground. Below this roof, formed by the larger species, there are numerous layers of smaller, shade-bearing trees, but small herbaceous vegetation is scanty because very little light reaches the ground. On the other hand, climbing plants, such as lianes and canes, are fairly abundant.

Timber production is mainly in the hands of British, Australian and Chinese firms, and by the end of 1951 there

were 44 sawmills operating. Circular saws are almost universally used, only one mill being equipped with two bandsaws.

Thanks mainly to the example given by the larger and more recently established logging companies, timber extraction methods continue to improve, although the rate of progress is retarded by the difficulty of obtaining, and the present high cost of such equipment as rails and locomotives. The Borneo Company Limited increased its elephant herd from 5 to 22 during the year.

In 1951 the outturn of commercial timber was 9,096 tons of 50 cubic feet converted and 91,779 tons of Hoppus feet of logs, representing an increase of about 27% over the total in 1950. Although timber exports, particularly to Australian ports, were adversely affected by an acute shortage of shipping during the first half of 1951; the situation improved towards the end of the year, and the total amount exported was 39,648 Hoppus tons round and 14,917 cubic tons sawn representing an increase of 19% over 1950. The United Kingdom which took only 7,328 tons in 1950, became the leading importer in 1951, taking 27,082 tons or 39% of the round timber cut for export. Hong Kong was the second largest importer taking 25% of the total cut, whilst Australia, which was the leading importer until the end of 1950 dropped to third place with 23%. Relatively small quantities of timber were sent to various Borneo ports, mainly Brunei and the Natuna Islands, to Singapore, South Africa, New Zealand and Japan. The bulk of the timber exported was made up of ramin (*Gonystylus* spp.) and meranti (*Shorea* spp.).

Apart from its general duty of the supervision of forest industries, the main task of the Forest Department at present is the selection and reservation of land to be kept under forest in perpetuity, both for the permanent production of timber and other products and for the prevention of erosion and floods. Under the Forestry Development Plan, which is aided by a Colonial Development and Welfare grant, good progress has been made with the constitution of permanent forests. By the end of 1951 a total of 6,406 square miles had been reserved and a further 2,132 square miles were in process of reservation. The Development Plan defines additional "zones of interest" totalling some 11,700 square miles which will in turn be examined and then either constituted or abandoned as may be considered advisable.

The inventory of forest resources that forms the second major part of the plan is being carried out by a variety of methods. In some parts of the country, particularly the peat-swamps, the work is greatly facilitated by aerial photographs, on which the principal forest types can be easily detected. All that is then required is mapping from these photographs with adequate ground checks, and the growing stock is assessed by random sampling in selected areas. In the inland forests, on the other hand, few of the important types can be recognised on aerial photographs and systematic sampling, at intensities of 1 to 5 per cent., or even more in special cases, is usually necessary, as there is frequently a patch-work of various forest types and quality classes even in quite small areas. One special and urgent objective of this inventory is an assessment of remaining sources of belian, accessible supplies of which are becoming scarce. Future policy with regard to this remarkably strong and durable timber is still doubtful and depends on the results of the inventory.

Forestry research is at present concerned mainly with experimental plantations, with a view to the reclamation of impoverished soils and the rehabilitation of forests degraded by shifting cultivation. Both mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) and ru ronang (*Casuarina sumatrana*) show considerable promise of success despite shoot borer and collar weevil attack in the former species. The latter species is not a timber tree but yields firewood of a very high quality and may therefore be of great value in densely populated localities. It is still considered too early, however, to embark on any large-scale projects of this nature. Trial areas have also been planted with durian (*Durio* sp.) in swamp forest near Kuching.

A start has been made with the formation of a reference collection of authenticated wood specimens, considered to be a very necessary step in view of the increasing number of enquiries on Sarawak timbers. A valuable nucleus for this was provided by a collection of 100 species, most of which occur in Sarawak, generously presented by the Forest Department of North Borneo. A limited number of sets of small hand samples are available for distribution. Steps are also being taken to improve the reference herbarium at Kuching that suffered much loss and damage during the period of Japanese occupation, and a considerable number of specimens were added during the year.

A training course at Kuching for subordinate field staff now takes place annually and includes instruction in surveying, silviculture and the identification of trees and timbers. This year eight Foresters and Forest Guards from various parts of the Colony attended the course and all succeeded in passing the examinations.

The following statement gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure for the years 1950-51.

	1950.	1951.
Revenue ...	\$389,050	\$486,733
Expenditure ...	141,258	238,907
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus ...	\$247,832	\$247,826
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The expenditure for 1951 quoted above excludes \$37,891 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Export duties on minor forest produce, collected by the Customs Department, amounted to \$354,999, as compared with \$254,714 in 1950. The chief contributors towards this total were getah jelutong and damar.

(E). MINERAL RESOURCES.

The mineral resources of Sarawak comprise oil, gold, coal, antimony, mercury, bauxite, diamonds, limestone used for lime manufactured and suitable for cement, clay used for bricks and tiles and some types of pottery, building stone, and phosphate. Small occurrences of silver, lead, copper, gypsum, ilmenite, zircon, and iron ore have been recorded, sapphires have been found, and salt is worked by native methods in the interior; kaolin was discovered during 1951. The oilfields of northeast Sarawak, and the gold in the west, are the mineral deposits that have received the closest examination, but, in common with the other minerals, much work remains to be done before their full potentialities are known. Mineral occurrences, particularly of gold, coal, antimony, and mercury, have been reported from a number of widely separated localities.

Little was written in the past about Sarawak's minerals, but they did receive attention. Between 1850 and 1900 an energetic search was made for deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury, and gold. Investigations were made by

individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the State Government. Unfortunately virtually none of the information resulting from the work was published, and records available are insufficient for assessing the full extent of the investigations. Minerals have, however, played an important part in Sarawak's development. From 1823, after the discovery that antimony ore had a ready market, they figured prominently in the economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was generally the most important mineral produced and, in the early days, often the leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879 inclusive, but after 1887 output declined and ten years later was negligible. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export. The relationship of mineral products to the country's total export is shown in the table below :

PAST SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION.

Year.	Value of Sarawak Produce exported.	Value of Mineral exports.	Percentage of Mineral exports to exports of Sarawak produce.	Mineral Royalties paid to the Sarawak Government.	Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first.
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	Antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds.
1888	1,322,325	118,915	9	8,889	Antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold.
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	Coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver.
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	Gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver.
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	Gold, oil, coal.
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	Oil.
1938	23,244,666	12,482,134	54	387,636	Oil, gold, silver.
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	67,320†	Oil, gold, antimony.

All values given in Sarawak dollars fixed at 2s. 4d. sterling since 1906.

N.A.=not available.

†Estimated oil royalty, and mining rents and fees; most of the oil exported during 1948 was produced in Brunei.

MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1951.

The output of minerals and mineral products during 1951 consisted of oil, gold, phosphate, bricks and tiles, lime and stone. Their estimated value was \$3,419,500, and over \$121,000 was paid as direct revenue in the form of royalties and mining rents to the Government. The value of mineral exports was \$303,260,500, and consisted of oil and gold. Most of this oil however came from Brunei, was piped to Sarawak, and some of it treated at the Lutong Refinery; exports comprised crude oil, gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, diesel fuel, and diesel fuel bunkers. The oil industry, a Shell Group organization, operates on a large scale using modern methods. The other mineral industries are mainly in the hands of small Chinese concerns; gold mines which are situated in the Bau District of west Sarawak number six; building materials are produced at the three main towns, Kuching, Sibü and Miri. Deposits of Kaolin which may in future be used for making pottery locally were discovered during the year.

Mining leases in 1951 totalled 25 and covered 3,939 acres as compared with 24 miles in 1950 and covering 3,930 acres. This is the only land in the 47,000 square mile territory reserved for mining; the Sarawak Oilfields Limited has general oil rights over the whole territory. The British Aluminium Company Limited continued to prospect for bauxite and extended their search from west Sarawak eastwards into the Third Division. Gold prospecting was mainly limited to the Bau District where tests were made by the Borneo Company Limited, Anglo Oriental (Malaya) Limited, and a few local Chinese prospectors.

Numerous minerals occur in Sarawak but the present development of the country is too limited to justify the mining of the lower priced materials for local requirements. Working difficulties, poor communications, a limited working population, isolated mineral occurrences, and uncertain markets are some of the obstacles which deter mining for export. However, as the territory develops, communications improve, and a local internal market is formed, the country's own mineral resources will be capable of meeting many of the main requirements. The coal deposits could probably supply most local needs likely to arise, and it is known that limestone exists suitable for lime and cement, clays for bricks, tiles and pottery, stone for roads, guano for fertilizers; oil and gold are already worked and occurrences of antimony

ore, mercury ore, bauxite, ilmenite, zircon, etc. are known. The 1951 mineral output is shown below.

SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1951.

MINERAL	PRODUCTION.	REMARKS.
		Valued at \$2,638,796; royalty paid was \$98,252.
Oil	... 372,780 United States barrels	Oil exports from Sarawak totalled 4,947,598 long tons valued at \$303,186,679 and included gasoline, diesel, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, and crude oil. Most of this oil was produced in Brunei but piped to Sarawak and some of it treated at Lutong Refinery before being exported.
Gold	... 931 fine ounces	Valued at \$73,780; a royalty of \$3,689 was collected, and mining rents yielded \$8,237. The output came from six mines in the Bau District.
Phosphate	... 649 long tons	Estimated value \$75,491; royalty paid was \$10,944. Extracted from Niah Caves, Bukit Subis, Fourth Division.
Bricks and Tiles	... 2,215,500 bricks 375,000 tiles	Estimated value of bricks made is \$288,015 and of tiles \$52,500. The output of 5 concerns at Kuching was 1,011,500 bricks; around Sibu 3 companies produced 775,000 bricks, and at Miri 2 companies made 429,000 bricks.
Lime	... 1,113 long tons	Estimated value \$130,900. Made in the Kuching area by Chop Mong Soon, Ban Hin Company, and Swee Huat Seng.
Stone	... 40,100 cubic yards	Estimated value \$160,000. This stone, produced in the First Division, came from the 7th, 18th, and 28th mile quarries, also from a working at Bau. Only negligible quantities of stone were worked elsewhere in Sarawak.

Values are in Straits dollars, \$1 being worth Sterling 2s. 4d.

Oil continues to be the most important mineral product; it comes from the Miri oilfield, situated on the coast and worked by Sarawak Oilfields Limited. In 1951 production decreased to 327,780 barrels valued at \$2,638,796, compared with the 1950 output of 414,196 barrels valued at \$2,706,555. This decrease is however not surprising as Miri field is now over 30 years old, production by the Shell group having commenced here in 1911. The oilfield is close to the Brunei border, and near the Seria field which is now the Commonwealth's biggest producer. Although Miri production is decreasing, the search for new oilfields was energetically carried out during 1951 over a wide area of Sarawak.

This search is described below; the account is based mostly on information kindly supplied by the oil company. Geological mapping was carried out by three parties of oil company geologists during the year. One party made a reconnaissance survey in the Limbang-Lawas area for 3 months, and then moved to the Balingian-Mukah-Oya area. A reconnaissance survey of the area between the Bintulu and Tatau rivers was made by a second geological team, while the third worked in the area north of the Bintulu river as far as the Nyalau river. Geophysical surveys were in progress in addition to geological mapping. Two seismic parties were at work; one in the Miri-Tudan and Marudi area, while the other made two investigations, one west of the Miri oilfield and the other west of Kuala Suai. These latter were investigations of a type unusual and relatively new in this region, and consisted of marine surveys along the coast. Gravity work was also carried out from Bulak Setap southwards towards the Bintulu river. Past geological geophysical surveys have indicated that there is a chance that there may be oil reservoirs in the Bulak Setap and Subis river areas. The possibilities are now being tested by deep drilling, and two holes which will penetrate to depths of about two miles below the surface, were commenced in 1951. Work on these deep test holes has proceeded steadily and it is expected they will be completed during 1952. The drilling at Subis commenced in March, 1951; at the end of the year a depth of 5,210 feet had been reached and the hole was in shale of Miocene age. The drilling at Bulak Setap, some 25 miles south of Miri, was commenced in August and at the end of the year had reached a depth of 5,795 feet. Early in 1951 another test hole was drilled in the northern portion of the Rejang estuary near Kuala Igan to test the thickness of the

younger Tertiary sediments with which oil is associated elsewhere in British Borneo. In the Rejang area these deposits were found to be relatively thin, and at a depth of 1,600 feet had been passed and older rocks of Eocene age reached in which the chances of oil occurring are remote, this drilling was therefore discontinued.

Gold production in 1950 totalled 931 fine ounces estimated to be worth \$75,491: it was obtained from six small Chinese mines in the Bau District. This is a decrease compared with the 1950 output when 1,440 fine ounces were obtained.

This decrease was due to several causes. Mining was handicapped by both the shortage and high cost of labour, also by the deterioration of the roads serving the area; along these roads are normally transported the supplies, equipment, and even ore from some of the mines. The cost of equipment increased considerably, particularly such items as compressors, crushers, and diesel engines. These difficulties were not mitigated by any compensating changes, the price of gold remaining unaltered, and the output being sold to Government at the internationally controlled price.

Gold prospecting continues in a small way in spite of the discouraging conditions of high labour and equipment costs, and a low gold price. The Borneo Company Limited have a mining engineer prospecting in the Bau district, and have taken out a prospecting licence over part of the Poak river area. Alluvial gold deposits in this district were worked by Chinese more than 30 years ago, but it is alleged that the local Dayaks then would not agree to large scale mining. The possibilities of working gold from the alluvial deposits by dredging was examined during the year by Anglo Oriental (Malaya) Limited. Alluvial areas were bored along the Sarawak river, both in the vicinity of Bau, and in the lower portions of the valley. Their work confirmed that gold occurred in the alluvium, but indicated the quantities to be insufficient to repay dredging. This is unfortunate as there are extensive alluvial flats, and if dredging had been profitable a steady output would have been possible over a number of years. This company also tested alluvial gold occurrences at Marup, near Engkilili in the Second Division. Here it was again found that gold occurred in the alluvial deposits, but in insufficient quantities to be worth dredging.

Phosphate production amounting to 649 long tons was the highest yet obtained. The value was \$75,491 and a royalty of \$10,944 was paid to Government; in 1950 the output was 643 long tons, valued at \$38,880, and yielding \$5,400 royalty. The output comes from guano deposits in the Niah Caves at Bukit Subis in the Fourth Division. The deposits here are the largest in Sarawak and are worked and marketed under the supervision of the Agricultural Department. Guano is common in limestone caves elsewhere in the country, but the deposits are smaller than those at Niah Caves. The production figure given above includes neither the small amounts of phosphate extracted by the Niah Cave owners for their own use, nor small amounts collected to supply local requirements from caves elsewhere in Sarawak. Deposits containing about 2,000 tons of guano have been examined at Gunong Staat south of Kuching, and small amounts have been found in caves at Gunong Selabor, south of Serian. One of the Department's geologists mapped and investigated during 1951 the main phosphate occurrences in British Borneo.

The Niah caves are estimated to contain about 29,000 tons of phosphate; they consist of approximately 2 miles of explored passages and cover an area of approximately 24 acres; small streams and water seepages from the roof are common. The phosphate deposits originate from the accumulation during thousands of years, of bat and swift droppings, and insect remains; reaction with limestone has resulted in the formation of rock phosphate.

Chemical analyses show that nitrogen is almost entirely restricted to the surface guano and decreases rapidly as the depth increases. The P_2O_5 and CaO content increases with depth reaching a maximum in the "fossil" guano near the base of the deposit. Surface guano contains on the average 6 percent P_2O_5 , 11 percent CaO, and 7 percent nitrogen; "fossil" guano averages 23 percent P_2O_5 , 22 percent CaO, while nitrogen rarely reaches 1 percent and is often absent.

Building materials produced comprise bricks, tiles, lime and stone; during 1951 the value of the output was estimated at \$631,400. The industry is mainly run by Chinese and operates on a small scale serving local requirements around the

main population centres of Kuching, Sibü and Miri. The output could be increased if demand increased. Kuching, situated in the most developed part of the country, had the largest and most varied production of constructional materials—bricks produced totalling 1,011,500 tons— while the lime output was 1,113 long tons estimated to be worth \$130,900. The clay and sand used for brick and tile manufacture comes from the valley of the Sarawak river, and the limestone used for making lime from Gunong Staat. Building materials were also produced at the other two main population centres of Sibü and Miri. Sibü district had a production of 775,000 bricks, kilns being operated at Binatang, Durin and Sungai Sadit; there was no output from the Sarikei works. At Miri 49,000 bricks were produced by two companies. The estimated average value of bricks produced during 1951 was \$130 per thousand, tiles \$140 per thousand, and lime \$7 per pikul (16.8 pikuls equal 1 long ton).

Stone production recorded in 1951 was 40,100 cubic yards with an estimated value of \$160,000. This was obtained in the First Division from quarries at the 7th, 18th and 28th miles on the Kuching-Serian road, and from a working at Bau; elsewhere only negligible quantities of stone were worked. Most of the stone was used for road construction and road repairs; the bulk of it—32,000 cubic yards—was andesite porphyry, from the Bukit Stapok quarry near the 7th mile from Kuching.

Aluminium ore, discovered during 1949 in the Sematan area of west Sarawak, was prospected during 1950 and the work completed in 1951. Sematan is a coastal village located some 42 miles in a direct line west-northwest of Kuching. The best bauxite found to date occurs in this district, and for a radius of about 20 miles from this village it is relatively common. Most occurrences however comprise merely a few fragments of ore, and deposits of a marketable grade or workable quantity are few. Mere showings of this type have been found in this district at Ulu Sungai Pueh, Sungai Melanau, Kampong Sedopit, and at Gunong Puting. A number of larger occurrences are listed below, but even of these probably only the first 3 listed contain ore worth mining.

- (1) Munggu Belian
- (2) Bukit Gebong
- (3) Tanjong Serabang

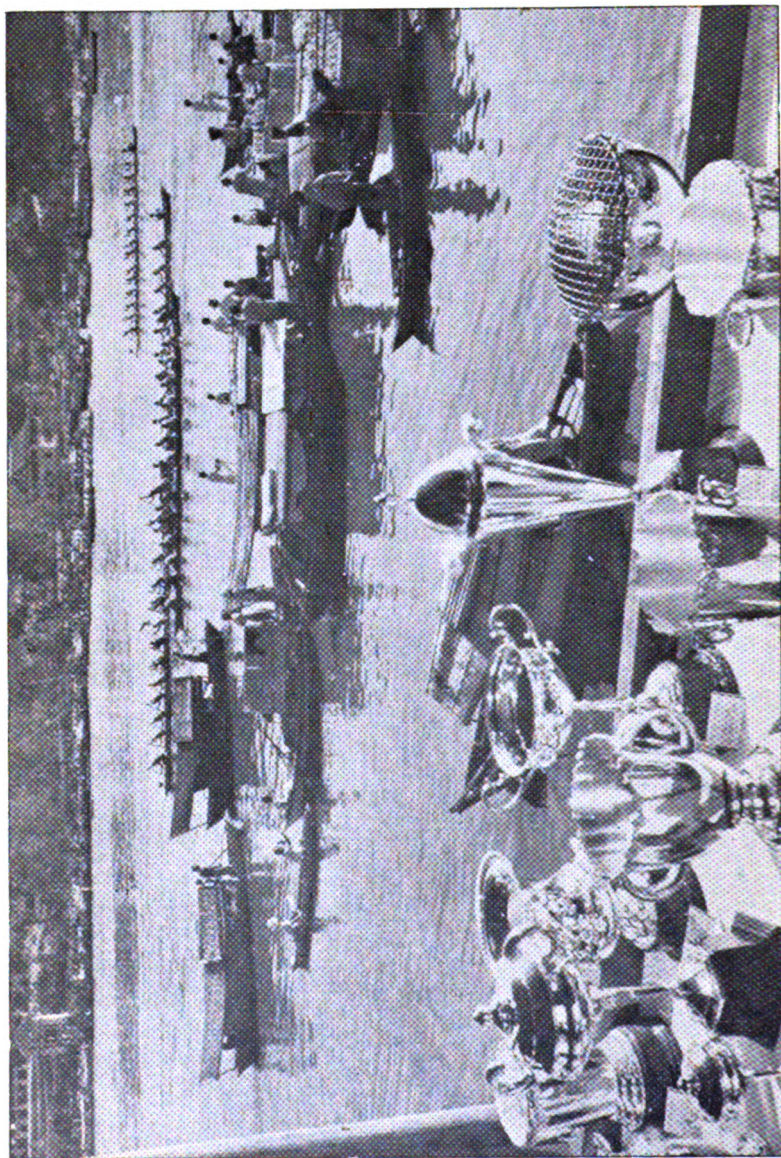
- (4) Gunong Tamin Tungku
- (5) Ulu Blungei Kechil
- (6) Gunong Angus
- (7) Kranji
- (8) Ulu Sungai Limoh
- (9) Pelandok
- (10) Titi Akar

The amount of ore that might possibly be worth working at these occurrences is estimated to be about 5,500,000 long tons. During 1951 the British Aluminium Company's geologists and mining engineers, extended their search for bauxite from the First Division eastwards into the Second and Third Divisions, and by the end of the year were making reconnaissance examinations of the Rejang valley. For most of the year the company had two geologists and two mining engineers employed on field work.



[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

Sarawak white pepper being bagged for export at Kuching.



[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

The Kuching Annual Regatta in progress.

VIII

Social Services.

(A) EDUCATION.

General and Administration.

The senior staff approved for the Education Department during 1951 consisted of a Director and eleven Education Officers. To provide for the better supervision and inspection of the expanding school system two new posts of Education Officer were created during 1951. One of these posts was for a Divisional Education Officer in the Second Division, and the other was for an officer to serve as relief during periods of leave. At the end of the year the creation of new posts of a Deputy Director, an Inspector of Schools, and two Group Supervisors, (Man and Woman) were approved. An additional Education Officer, for the 4th and 5th Divisions, was also approved.

In addition to the Group Supervisors named above, five of the more able and experienced of the trained teachers were selected at the end of 1951 to act as Group Supervisors, Grade IIIA, and arrangements were made for them to attend a special course at the Training Centre before taking up their duties.

The standard of staffing in all types of school continued to improve both as regards the number and qualifications of teachers. Five of the staff at the Batu Lintang Training Centre and School successfully passed their examinations and were certificated as Grade IIA teachers. The second output of 48 certificated teachers, Grade IIIA, (not including 9 Brunei students) from the Training Centre at the end of 1950 benefited rural schools under the management of Government, Local Authorities, Missions and Private Committees. There was a small but important increase in the number of qualified and experienced expatriate staff in the Urban Mission Schools.

Vacation courses for Chinese Teachers were held at Kuching and Sibul during June. Special attention was paid to the teaching of English but subjects dealt with also included methods of teaching the History and Geography of

Sarawak, teaching apparatus and methods, and discipline. Approximately 200 teachers have now attended one or other of the courses held at Sibü. These courses appear to be resulting in an improvement in the teaching of English and particularly in the use of oral methods, an increased use of local material in History and Geography, and in closer personal relationships between teachers and the staff of the Department.

The School population rose from 39,423 in 1950 to 42,284 at the end of 1951. Most of this increase was accounted for by increased enrolments in the Chinese Primary School system. Although there was an increase in the number of schools of various types catering for children of the indigenous peoples, the number of these children enrolled showed only a small increase in some sections and a small decrease in others. In these new schools for the indigenous people some decrease in enrolment after the first few years seems to be a natural development, since, when these schools are first opened, their numbers are often swollen by the admission of many over age pupils. As these over age pupils pass out of the schools the enrolment becomes stabilised, at a lower figure, with a regular intake annually of children attaining school age.

In some areas the high prices obtainable for rubber and other produce has resulted in parents removing their children from school to assist them in their work. There was a considerable increase in the number of boys and girls studying in the Secondary classes of urban English Schools. From these schools 45 candidates sat for the Cambridge University Overseas School Certificate examination compared with 28 candidates in the previous year.

The number of girls in all types of school increased during the year. In Local Authority Schools, however, which cater mainly for children of the indigenous peoples, the number of girls is still small. The first three women student teachers at Batu Lintang Training Centre successfully completed the two year course and graduated in November. Two other women teachers completed two years' training in Domestic Science and graduated as Domestic Science teachers in December. Training for teachers in this subject continues and it is hoped that by 1954 it will be possible to open two

Centres in Sibü. Two of the Mission English Schools in Kuching now have their own Housecraft rooms.

By the end of 1951 the Local Authority School System had completed four years of existence and it was possible to make some appraisal of its merits and weakness. As was expected, the devolution of responsibility to inexperienced local bodies has resulted in some loss of professional efficiency. For example in their eagerness to open new schools some Authorities have expanded their schools system to the limits of their finances, allotting too little money to the purchase of equipment for existing schools, and failing to budget for automatic increases in expenditure such as increments for serving teachers and probable rises in cost-of-living allowances. On the other hand the assumption of responsibility for primary education has led to considerable interest in educational development. The discussion of School affairs usually occupies the greater part of Local Authority meetings. At these meetings the Authorities have shown an increasing understanding of the problems of attendance, equipment, curricula and other matters that concern their schools. Several Authorities have recently turned their attention to the drafting of Education Rules and shown an imaginative and determined approach to the problem of ensuring that pupils complete the 4-year course.

Another encouraging feature is the introduction by some Local Authorities of education cesses and School fees even in some cases where Local Authorities have taken over where were previously free "Government" Schools.

The Authorities do not finance from their funds the construction or maintenance of school buildings or furniture. The responsibility for buildings and furniture is devolved a stage further to village committees. This arrangement requires a constructive effort from the village people before the Local Authority will agree to post a teacher. Thus the greater part of the Local Authority Funds available can be allotted for the payment of teachers' salaries and equipment, and at the same time village communities are stimulated to provide their own buildings and are prevented from regarding the Local Authorities as a mere extension of the central Government. The value of these Committees has varied much. Some are apathetic and others tend to interfere in matters which

should be left to the teacher. Others have been marred by local rivalries. In the more progressive areas however Committees have been active in organising the maintenance of school buildings, athletic and social activities, and assisting the school in other ways. These Committees have provided an outlet for local interest in education and an opportunity for public service within the village.

In the Third Division the Chinese Schools Common Examination Board which in 1950 had conducted its first Primary Examination, successfully held its first Junior Middle Examination in 1951 in addition to the Primary Examinations. The Board meets under the chairmanship of the Divisional Education Officer. The Board has done much to improve the efficiency of the schools and has led to useful co-operation between the Managements and the Department.

There was increased evidence during the year that Communist agencies were infiltrating into Chinese Schools and Youth Movements. This became particularly evident at one of the main urban Chinese Schools where the control, discipline and morale deteriorated seriously.

In dealing with these increased activities of subversive elements the department was seriously handicapped by the lack of Education officers with a knowledge of the Chinese language. Attempts to recruit officers with such qualifications continued.

In the meantime there were two practical steps which could be taken. One was, with the assistance of school authorities and the public, to close the loopholes being utilised by the Communist agencies; by strengthening parental control, organising out-of-school activities and ensuring that pupils from outstations were controlled more satisfactorily. The second was to make every effort to prevent doubtful persons from entering the teaching profession and to terminate the employment of serving teachers whose influence on pupils was unsatisfactory.

Fifteen Dayak boys from Primary Schools were admitted to the Apprenticeship Course at the Preparatory Trade School of the British Malayan Petroleum Co., Seria. Very favourable reports were received on the progress of these boys.

The Advisor to the Secretary of State on Technical Education, Dr. F. J. Harlow, M.B.E., visited Sarawak during

the year. Dr. Harlow held discussions with various individuals, and with representative groups in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions and gave very valuable advice on the future development of Technical Education and Trade Training.

Sarawak continued to maintain and strengthen its association with the University of Malaya, and contributed during the year 1951 towards the university's expenditure. Several officers of the University visited Sarawak during the year and useful discussions were held with them on educational matters.

During 1951 various problems relating to the system of Grants-in-Aid and to the methods of assessing the Central Government's contribution towards educational development under Local Authorities grew more complex and it became evident that a full enquiry into the best methods of financing education in the Colony was an urgent necessity.

After discussions with representatives of various schools, a uniform system of nomenclature for school classes was agreed upon and put into force.

Pupils at all the main Schools in Kuching were Tuberculin Tested and, where necessary, given B.C.G. vaccination.

The Education Ordinance, which had been enacted in 1950, came into force on 1st January 1951.

Finance.

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services :

	1940.	1950.	1951 (estimate).
Central Government funds ...	\$166,881	\$416,660	\$751,535
Local Authority funds ...	nil	93,942	168,451
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	nil	178,821	212,773
Total ...	\$166,881	\$689,423	\$1,132,759
	£19,469	£80,433	£132,155

It was estimated that during 1951 the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$558,300 (£65,135) and the Managements of Chinese Schools some \$1,967,280 (£229,516) on educational services. These amounts were mainly derived from school fees and subscriptions and were additional to

grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority funds. The figures quoted above do not take into account the value of contributions made by school committees, in money or in materials, for the construction and maintenance of school buildings and furniture.

Government Schools.

At the end of 1951 there were 45 Government Schools staffed by 105 teachers and with 3,641 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1950 were 47 schools with 102 teachers and 4,037 pupils, in addition to the Batu Lintang School. Two Government Schools were taken over by a Local Authority during the year and one school where there was insufficient support from parents was closed. The decrease in the number of pupils attending Government schools is explained mainly by the transfer and closing of these schools.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. No fees are charged but the pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees with advisory powers function at a number of these schools.

With the exception of one school in Kuching at which post-primary classes have been established, all these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction. There is now a strong demand for English. This has been met by the engagement of English-speaking teachers in a few of the larger schools, and by the inclusion of English in the curriculum of the Teacher Training Centre. By the end of 1951 trained teachers from the Centre who had been posted to Government Primary Schools numbered 24 and most of these were able to introduce the teaching of English as a subject.

At the Government School at Batu Lintang, which is run in conjunction with the Teacher Training Centre, post-primary academic courses were held for boys who had completed the primary course in vernacular schools. 24 new pupils, including 8 from Brunei, were admitted at the beginning of 1951, bringing the total in these classes to 67.

Local Authority Schools.

At the end of 1951 there were 74 Local Authority Schools with 90 teachers and an enrolment of 2,868 pupils. The corresponding figures at the end of 1950 were 67 schools with 77 teachers and 2,545 pupils. A number of new Local Authority Schools opened during the year but sickness or resignations of staff caused a few schools to close temporarily. Of the 7 additional schools in existence at the end of 1951 two had been transferred from the central government.

The increase in the number of pupils attending Local Authority schools was small but the average age of children in these schools and their distribution in the classes showed improvement. There were fewer over-age pupils and the age of new admissions was more satisfactory. The general standard of efficiency in these schools, though still low, showed improvement, especially in parts of the 2nd Division. There was an excessive number of transfers of teachers and Authorities had to be reminded of the need for continuity in the staffing of schools.

Six Local Authorities have decided to raise additional revenue for education by charging an Education Rate. All the authorities introduced for their teachers the new rates of Cost of Living Allowance authorised for employees of the Central Government service.

Private Schools or Village Committee Schools.

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed, the indigenous peoples were encouraged in the meantime to open schools under management of Committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools" or "Private Schools" receive financial assistance from Government. There were 30 schools of this type at the end of 1951 with 41 teachers and 1,408 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1950 were 35 schools with 45 teachers and 1,769 pupils. 6 Private Schools were taken over by Local Authorities during the year. A few new schools were registered and a few schools which had been registered provisionally did not continue after the expiry of their provisional certificate. About half the number of Private Schools appear to have become fairly stable and well-established. Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$7,245 (£845), as compared with \$5,821 (£679) in 1950 were paid during the

year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from the Mission representatives in the area.

Mission Schools.

At the end of the year there were 69 of these schools with 263 teachers and 7,988 pupils. At the end of 1950 there were 59 schools with 243 teachers and 7,166 pupils.

Grants from the Central Government amounting to \$122,140 (£14,250) were paid to Mission Schools during the year as compared with \$93,849 (£10,949) during the previous year. For the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the Grant was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff while a more favourable formula was in force for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government Service. At 12 of these schools, secondary classes were provided in which 1,315 pupils were enrolled. 96 candidates entered for the Cambridge Junior School Certificate at the end of 1951 and 77 were successful. In the previous year 73 out of 93 entrants were successful. Classes for the Cambridge School Certificate were held at 4 schools and 45 candidates, of whom 9 were girls, sat for this examination at the end of 1951. 37 candidates obtained the School Certificate. These figures compared with 23 successful candidates out of 28 entrants in 1950. The number of Grade I certificates rose from 4 in 1950 to 15 in 1951.

Some of the larger Mission Schools in urban areas extended and improved their buildings; and now class room blocks and Domestic Science rooms were built or planned in Girls' Schools, and Science Laboratories equipped at Boys' Schools during the year.

Improvements in the staff position made it possible for these schools to widen their curriculum. Pupils are now being prepared to take the General Science paper in the Cambridge School Certificate examinations. The permission of the Cambridge Syndicate has been obtained for the examination in this subject to be held in Kuching in 1952. It was agreed to introduce Oral English Tests in the Cambridge Examinations in 1952.

A few new Mission Schools were opened in rural areas. In such rural schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools.

There were 216 Chinese Schools at the end of 1951, with 874 teachers and 26,365 pupils. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 215 schools with 804 teachers and 23,906 pupils. Most of these schools were controlled by committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from Associations and individuals. During the year "block" grants amounting to approximately \$54,035 (£6,315) as compared with \$48,498 (£5,657) in 1950 were paid from Central Government Funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at 80 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of 16,881 pupils. In addition one Chinese School was aided by a Local Authority.

There were 3 "Junior Middle" Schools and 7 other schools had combined Primary and Middle Departments. "Senior Middle" courses were held at two schools.

The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction in Chinese Schools in Sarawak, but increased attention has been given to the teaching of English as a subject. A vacation course for teachers of English in Chinese Schools was held at the beginning of the year. Government scholarships were awarded to two Chinese women teachers to enable them to attend a course at a Teacher Training College in the United Kingdom.

The Common Examinations Board of the Chinese Schools in the Third Division successfully conducted its first Common Junior Middle Examination in Sibu at the end of the year.

A disappointingly low proportion of teachers in this section regard teaching as a career, and the short-term contracts offered by most Boards of Management result in a feeling of insecurity amongst teachers. As a result there is little continuity in staffing at most schools as resignations and transfers are far too common a feature.

Higher Education.

A Government scholarship was awarded to a Miri student to enable him to take a degree course in Science at the

University of Malaya. Another student was awarded a scholarship to take a Post School Certificate course in Malaya prior to entry to the University for the medical course. Under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholarship, a young officer in the Legal Department was sent to the United Kingdom to study law. Sarawak has been enabled to send several students for overseas courses of study under the Technical Co-operation Scheme connected with the Colombo Plan. Under this Scheme the New Zealand Government has awarded a Fellowship to a young woman from Kuching for training as a Dental Nurse, and to an officer in the Health Department for training as a Sanitary Inspector. At the end of the year the award was announced of New Zealand Government Fellowships to two teachers from a Mission English School for Specialised teaching courses. Under the same scheme the Australian Government awarded a Scholarship to an officer in the Forestry Department for a 4 years course in Australia leading up to the degree (Forestry). A Chinese woman teacher received a bursary from the British Council for the study of education methods in the United Kingdom. The British Council also granted a six-months' bursary to a Sarawak student for the study of museum work at the Cambridge Museum of Ethnology, and a grant from the Government enabled the same student to undergo a further three months training in archaeology.

A few private students made their own arrangement for courses of higher education overseas. A Sibü boy went to Australia for a course in Electrical Engineering, and another student entered on an agricultural course in America.

Teacher Training.

Teacher-training is carried on at Batu Lintang near Kuching at a Centre which serves the whole Colony. It is at present financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. The staff consists of a Principal, two Assistant Principals who are priests representing the Anglican and R.C. Missions, and an assistant staff consisting of local teachers on secondment from the United Kingdom, one with qualifications in Handwork and Physical Training and the other a woman teacher trained in Infant and Junior methods.

The co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of School continues

to be a most important feature of the Centre, at which students of many races, religions and languages have successfully developed a mutual understanding and a corporate spirit.

All student teachers receive free board, tuition and transport, and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme, irrespective of the financial status of his family.

The course is at present of two years duration though a small number of students who were admitted with low academic qualifications have attended for an extra year. The academic standard of students on admission although improving is still low. The course includes the study of English, for which there is a demand from all peoples, and is designed to give students a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods. Emphasis is also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and indigenous cultures. Religious instruction is arranged for both Christian and Muslim students and chapels are provided for different sects.

During 1951 there were 90 student teachers at Batu Lintang of whom 47 were in their first year and the remainder in their final year. This number was composed of representatives of 9 different races of Sarawak and included 20 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei. At the end of the year 33 Sarawak students and 10 Brunei students, completed their training and the former were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country. Three of the Sarawak students who graduated were women.

The scheme had still to be limited to a course to provide teachers for the lower primary schools. Five of the staff, however, with academic qualification of Form 3 or above, completed courses of guided study and practical work, and successfully passed the examinations for the Grade II Certificate. At the end of the year sufficient applications had been received to make it likely that a higher course could be held in 1952 catering for students from the central English schools with a minimum qualification of Form Three.

Reports on the efficiency of the teachers who have graduated from the Centre naturally vary. Many of these teachers are opening new Local Authority Schools in areas where hitherto there have been no schools whatever. The

responsibilities and the problems which face these young men are often considerable. A small number have become discouraged and lost their initial keenness. A very few, in the boom conditions of 1951, gave up teaching for more lucrative employment elsewhere. Encouraging reports however are received on the work of many of the young men turned out from Batu Lintang and their worth seems to be shown by the eagerness with which their services are sought by local authorities and other employing bodies.

At the end of the year approval was obtained for the appointment of 5 Group Supervisors of Schools. These men were to be selected from the most promising and experienced of the teachers trained at Batu Lintang, and it was hoped that they would do much to help less experienced teachers in their difficulties and to maintain their keenness.

Adult Education.

The Rural Improvement School at Kanowit provides a course which lasts two years, and is designed to help selected couples to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular and to learn simple market arithmetic. During the course students receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The main building consists of a community centre of an improved "Long-house" design which provides class-rooms, dining and recreational facilities and a dispensary. Students and their families live during the course both in the long-house and in individual homes of different designs, which have been built on model small holdings within the school estate. This arrangement provides pupils with practical experience of both types of accommodation by which they can begin to form opinions as to which would be the more suitable for adoption in their areas. The school grounds occupy some 200 acres, one quarter of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the Colony, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations. The scheme was financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds from its inception to April 1952, when it will become a charge upon the Colony's revenue.

Efforts were made during the year to ensure that the pupils discharged in April had the fullest opportunity of putting into practice what they had learned during their training. The Principal was able to visit most of them in their home areas and valuable help was given to many pupils by Agricultural Officers and Assistants. It is clear that some pupils are already exercising a progressive influence on their neighbours by the introduction of better methods of agriculture and by improvements in the home. Of the fifteen couples which left the School in April, 1951, ten had by the end of the year induced some two hundred of their neighbours to join them in farming by improved methods. A full assessment of the results of the training will not be possible for some time, but it is already obvious that arrangements for the efficient supervision of all pupils after they return to their homes will be essential.

A literacy project was started amongst the adults of Stumbin on the Batang Lupar. Two factors commended this area as being specially suitable—first that it contained the largest concentration of Sea Dayak population in the country, and second that it was the scene of one of the Agricultural Department's large wet padi farming schemes. It was hoped that the development of literacy might be integrated with the development of agricultural methods. Unfortunately although the people were keenly interested in the latter, they betrayed but little enthusiasm for the former, and such small results were achieved that the project must be accounted a failure. On the other hand several smaller ventures, for instance in the headwaters of the Laya, proved most successful, for here there was such enthusiasm that with a minimum of counsel and help from the Department, several long-house communities achieved almost complete literacy in the course of a few months.

An effort was made to assess the demand for vernacular literature amongst the Sea Dayak public by producing a number of illustrated booklets by the Gestepoint process. These were of various types, some being instructional others having only an entertainment value, some being collections of local stories, others translations from European works (e.g. "Treasure Island"). The response by the public at large was poor and showed conclusively that the demand was insufficient to justify any printed editions at the present time. On the other hand it was found that these booklets were much in demand as supplementary readers in schools, and production

has been continued for this purpose. It is hoped that in this way the reading habit will spread and a sufficient market will be created in the course of the next year or two to justify the large-scale printing of vernacular works.

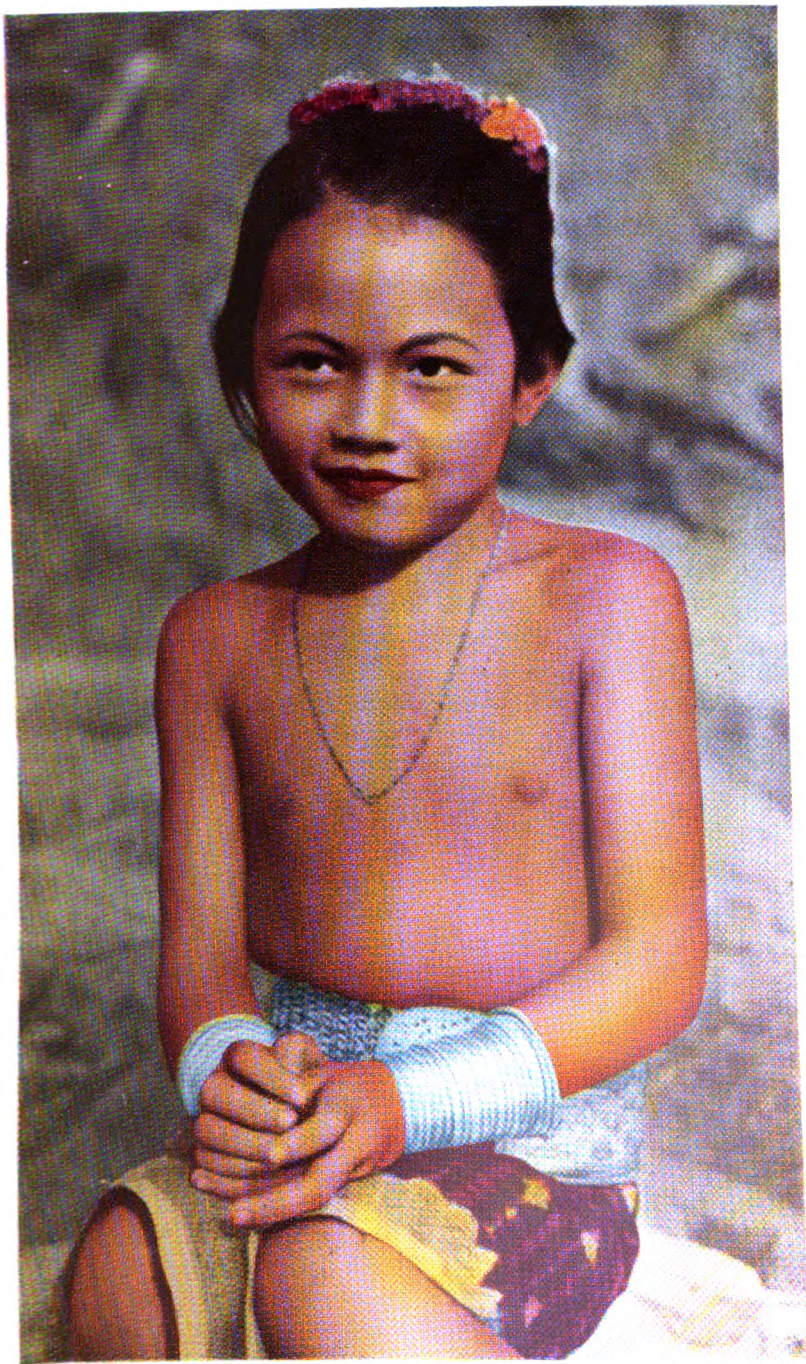
The Sea Dayak periodical "Pembrita" ("The Intelligencer") continued to be much in demand. It had hitherto been duplicated, but as this mode of production proved inadequate, it was decided to transfer the periodical to the Information Service in the middle of the year so that it could be produced in the format of an illustrated newspaper. Reorganization of the Government Printing Office, however, prevented this being achieved till the end of the year.

Night classes at a number of Chinese Schools and at a few other schools continued to be well attended. These courses generally aim at enabling adults to become literate in their own language, to learn simple arithmetic and in a few instances to study English.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities.

Several Associations, Clubs and Societies, some conducted by old students of schools, whose objects were to foster social, educational and cultural activities were active during the year. A few provided facilities for indoor and outdoor games.

During the year the Scout movement continued to expand, though there is still a considerable amount of work to be done before it can be regarded as fully organized. Local enthusiasm tends to outgrow organization. For example the Batu Lintang Training Centre is producing teachers who, having in the course of their training acquired an interest in Scouting, are anxious to start troops in the Schools to which they have been appointed. As a result, the number of troops is increasing but no experienced officer of the movement is available to give that local supervision, which the troops themselves demand. Indeed, not only in the schools, but generally throughout the Colony, there is a keen desire amongst young people to take part in Scouting. It is possible that in the near future a full-time Travelling Commissioner will be appointed to give the training, supervision, and leadership necessary to the advancement of a sound and healthy movement. Meanwhile a periodical, "The Sarawak Scout", has been published in English, Malay, and Chinese, to keep the various troops in touch with current developments.



[Photograph by K. F. Wong.

Sea Dayak girl from Kapit.

The Guide Companies in Kuching continue to expand and there are growing signs of interest in the movement in Miri. The lack of officers is still a serious hindrance to expansion, and the formation of new companies. At the end of the year Kuching was visited by a Guide trainer from Imperial Headquarters, whose help and encouragement was invaluable. She spent ten days in Kuching training the Guiders and senior guides and it is certain that the time she spent here and the work she did will be apparent in the various guide activities.

During the year the Guides and Brownies have been working for the first guide sale of work, the proceeds from which are to go towards the purchase of equipment for a camp site which is to be on some land on the Agricultural Station at Tarat, in the First Division.

The inauguration of a troop of Lifeguards and Sunbeams, the equivalent of the Guides and the Brownies, took place during the year at the Salvation Army Girls' Home. These have been organized by the Matron of the Girls' Home.

The Kuching Boys' Home continued to discharge the functions of an approved school under the administration of the Education Department until the end of the year. The Department proved to be unable to deal satisfactorily with its commitments in this regard and the Home was transferred to the care of the Superintendent of Prisons pending arrangements being made for its being handed over to a specialized agency. At the end of the year there were twenty-seven boys in custody. The organization of a probation service has made it possible to follow up the careers of boys who have been released and afford them advice and assistance. It has also been possible to release boys upon parole before the expiration of their sentence. The Boys' Club and Hostel in Padungan has played an important part in providing homeless boys with accommodation upon their release.

(B) MEDICAL.

ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.

At the beginning of the year the approved medical establishment consisted of a Director, a Deputy Director, nine medical officers and a lady medical officer. All but two medical officer vacancies had been filled and all these officers were in

the Colony. There appeared to be reasonable prospects that the two vacancies would be filled and thus, in spite of three officers being due for leave during the year, the medical staff position did not appear unfavourable. In the event no further recruits were obtained and, for a period when two officers were together out of the Colony on leave, there was difficulty in meeting commitments. During the year, the approved establishment of medical officers was increased by two to meet increasing commitments and, as a serving officer resigned, the Department in fact finished the year with five medical officer vacancies. Throughout the year, a lady doctor was employed on part time duties in a station which would not normally, at this stage, be one to which a medical officer would be posted. Also late in the year, a local appointment in Kuching of a Chinese doctor, extra to establishment, was made. These could not, however, be regarded as easing staff difficulties to any material extent and so the prospects for 1952 were not bright.

The establishment of the senior nursing staff was, at the beginning of the year, a Matron, a Sister Tutor, a Health Visitor and four nursing sisters. All these posts were filled in the early months of 1951 but the Department was one officer short after the Matron's retirement in May. The necessity for additional senior nursing staff being recognised, approval was given in April for the establishment to be increased by one Matron, Grade II, one Health Sister and six nursing sisters, but none of these new posts had been filled at the end of the year.

The Sarawak establishment includes provision for Brunei to the extent of two medical officers, one Matron, Grade II, one Nursing Sister and one Health Sister.

Even greater difficulties were experienced in recruiting local staff, especially nursing staff, and the number of recruits presenting themselves was quite insufficient to meet the needs of the growing department. The situation gave rise to considerable anxiety and various expedients were employed to meet the difficulties. A new grade of Assistant Nurse was created, for which a lower standard of education is required than for the probationer nurses as their training is purely practical and their function is to relieve the professional nurse of those ward duties which do not require for their performance

a high degree of professional training and skill. During the year this scheme proved its value and demonstrated conclusively that, far from being a temporary expedient, the Assistant Nurse is a permanent and essential part of the nursing service; and nurses are now employed in three of the Colony's hospitals. The shortage of nurses, also made it necessary to employ trained midwives to staff the Maternity Ward in Sibu Hospital.

Insufficient recruits to other branches, e.g. health visitors and health inspectors, prevented extension by these important and much needed services, and it was only in the midwifery services that as many trainees as could be dealt with were obtained, and a positive advance achieved.

Four hospital assistants and four nurses completed their training during the year and when the year closed thirty probationary hospital assistants and eighteen probationary nurses were in training.

The scheme for the improved training of midwives mentioned in the 1950 report was put into force in March. In the past midwife trainees merely received a year training in the Maternity Ward; the new scheme extends the period of training to two years and provides in addition instruction in ante-natal and post-natal care and experience of domiciliary midwifery. The domiciliary aspect of the scheme was, from March to October, under the supervision of the Midwife Tutor provided by UNICEF, and thereafter was supervised by her understudy, a local Senior Staff Nurse. By the end of the year satisfactory progress had been made and the scheme was securely launched.

Eight midwives were continuously in training throughout the year in Kuching. Two completed their training during 1951 and received certificates under the old training scheme.

It was unfortunately not possible to send any men to Singapore for training as health inspectors as the course leading to the examination for the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute could not be held there. Towards the end of the year negotiations were proceeding with the World Health Organisation for scholarships to send one man to New Zealand for training as a health inspector and for a serving Senior Health Inspector to go to Australia to obtain experience in meat and food inspection and to obtain the appropriate certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Shortage of personnel again seriously hindered development of the health visitor service. When the year commenced the only two trained nurses and four district midwives were available and in training. During the year it was only possible to make one addition to this staff by the engagement of a further district midwife. The two trained nurses completed their health visitor's training and three of the district midwives having passed the appropriate examination will, in future, be designated assistant health visitors. Recruitment difficulties were extreme and it is anticipated owing to the increased period of training now required for midwives, from whom assistant health visitors are recruited that any improvement is unlikely during 1952.

Legislation.

During the year the most important pieces of public health legislation brought into force were the Port Health Regulations, 1951, and the Port Health (Air Navigation) Regulations, 1951, which replaced the former, inadequate, Quarantine Rules. These new rules incorporate the provisions of the current International Sanitary Conventions but they will, perhaps, require amendment when the International Sanitary Regulations enter into force.

Although a new Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance was enacted in 1948 it was found in practice to place such a strain on the clerical staff of the District Administration that amendment of the registration system became necessary. To achieve this it was considered desirable to enact a new Ordinance and thus the Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance, 1951, was placed on the statute book and came into force on 1st August, 1951. The new Ordinance while retaining the essentials of the previous system of collecting information, provides for the maintenance of a central register alone, in place of registers in each district.

New Buildings.

In spite of high building costs and labour shortages a not inconsiderable amount of Medical Department building was achieved or initiated during the year. At the Leper Settlement a new barrack block was erected and one semi-detached quarter. At Simanggang Hospital the erection of

a twenty-bed general ward and a small ward for infectious cases was commenced but the work had not been completed by the end of the year.

In Sibü various alterations and additions were made to the Lau King Howe Hospital. Internal alterations led to a small increase in bed accommodation, a mental ward was completed and also the new Nurses' Home. A twenty-bed ward for tuberculosis cases was under construction as the year closed. Although funds were provided for a new outpatient department the work unfortunately could not be started in 1951.

The largest medical scheme initiated during 1951 was the new Government Hospital at Miri and construction work had commenced by the end of the year. This scheme is the result of joint effort by Government and the Sarawak Oilfields Limited and provides for forty-four beds, twenty-two of which will be for tuberculosis cases. The cost of the tuberculosis unit and its equipment and the cost of part of certain ancillary hospital buildings will be borne by the Sarawak Oilfields Limited. The total cost of the scheme is estimated to be \$177,660 of which \$61,500 is accounted for by the hospital buildings and the remainder by staff housing.

Finance.

The expenditure on medical and health services in 1951 is provisionally estimated at \$2,043,317.86, as compared with \$1,469,285.52 in 1950.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Sewage Disposal.

There are no major schemes for the water-borne disposal of sewage. In the residential areas of Kuching, Sibü and Miri a few premises have septic tank installations, but general nightsoil disposal is by the double-bucket system. There is no doubt that this system will have to continue for many years, although septic tanks are installed in new buildings whenever practicable. In the villages and less congested areas, river or pit latrines are the rule.

Nightsoil disposal in Kuching is undertaken by the Municipality and the nightsoil is treated in a series of three septic tanks before discharge into the river below the town.

In Sibü and Miri the work is carried out by contractors and crude sewage is discharged into the rivers when the tide is ebbing.

Scavenging.

In Kuching collection and disposal of refuse is efficiently carried out by the Municipality, disposal being by controlled tipping in various areas where it is desired to reclaim land. In Sibü the organization has been greatly improved with the provision of mechanical transport similar to that used in Kuching. Elsewhere refuse removal services are operated with varying degrees of effectiveness; there was a general improvement during the year.

Water Supplies.

The main towns and several small townships have piped supplies collected from controlled catchment areas, but no treatment is undertaken except at Sibü. Here the supply is drawn from the heavily-polluted Rejang River and is treated by storage and chlorination. Elsewhere, rivers, wells and rain water storage meet the requirements of the population, but these sources are subject to contamination and are therefore a threat to the public health.

Food.

Food premises in towns operate under licence and are subject to inspection by public health staff when available. Though there has been a slight improvement in conditions, methods of manufacture, storage and preparation for sale remain in many cases primitive. Food hawkers present a major problem; their handling methods are crude and their numbers make control almost impossible; typhoid endemicity and the incidence of intestinal infections therefore remain considerable. The standard of the markets in the towns was reasonably good, as they were subject to departmental inspection and municipal control.

ENDEMIC AND OTHER DISEASES.

Tuberculosis.

The Chest Clinic service, initiated in Kuching late in 1950, developed rapidly and a considerable amount of work was accomplished in spite of staff difficulties resulting in a

period of stagnation for two months in the middle of the year. Public interest in, and response to, the service was very great and attendances at times threatened to overwhelm available resources. The following figures indicate the work carried out by the Clinic and also the magnitude of the tuberculosis problem in Kuching.

Total attendances	...	16,116
Total New Attendances	...	2,500
Total New T.B. Cases	...	637
Number Tuberculin Tested in Clinic	...	2,397
Negatives	...	401 or 17%
Positives	...	1996 or 83%
Number Tuberculin Tested in Schools	...	8,024
Negatives	...	5687 or 71%
Positives	...	2337 or 29%
Number given B.C.G. in Clinic	...	401
Number given B.C.G. in Schools	...	5,687
Number of X-ray films taken	...	1,426

Close liaison was maintained between the Clinic and the General Hospital which still has the only special tuberculosis beds, to the number of 50, in Sarawak. These beds were constantly full, generally with cases referred to the hospital from the Clinic. However, there were far more cases than beds and outpatient treatment with Streptomycin and P.A.S. was largely resorted to. Home conditions of patients were investigated and visits paid by health inspectors and health visitors. It was not, however, found possible with the staff available to undertake domiciliary treatment on any substantial scale.

There was financial provision during 1951 for additional tuberculosis beds at other hospital centres, namely, Simanggang, Sibü and Miri, but, although construction was begun in each case, the badly needed additional beds were not yet available when the year closed. However, by mid-1952 the number of special tuberculosis beds available will be doubled.

Reference was made in the 1950 report to the possible formation of an anti-tuberculosis association to enlist voluntary aid. In April, the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak was formed at a meeting in Kuching sponsored by the Social Welfare Council. The objects of the Association

are to aid and supplement by all practical means the efforts of the Government to combat the infection of tuberculosis throughout the Colony, and its efforts are at present directed towards three main objectives, namely, the provision of treatment centres, the provision of relief and health education. The Association was extremely active during the year and raised funds exceeding \$100,000. Its first aim is to erect in Kuching and present to Government a suitable building to accommodate the Chest Clinic Service. Plans were prepared but unfortunately owing to difficulties over the site, building operations had not commenced by the end of December. Nevertheless there is every prospect of the work starting early in 1952.

The activities of the Association did much to focus public attention on, and interest in the problem of tuberculosis and much useful health educative work was done.

In other urban centres the problem was, in proportion, as great as in Kuching but it was not possible to make any organised approach to it. In a remote area of the Colony namely the Fifth Division, a limited tuberculin survey was carried out in a rural tribal group, the Muruts, among whom tuberculosis was reported to be rife. The percentage of positives at 83% for all age groups was high for a rural population and arrangements are being made to initiate B.C.G. vaccination.

During the year the expected assistance from WHO/UNICEF to carry out tuberculosis survey work and B.C.G. vaccination did not, unfortunately, materialise although as the year closed the project had been approved and it was expected that the team of a doctor and a nurse might arrive early in 1952. This team will work for a year, nine months in Sarawak and three months in Brunei. The request made to the World Health Organisation for equipment for mass radiography and other equipment for the Chest Clinic was not approved, but arrangements have been made to provide these in 1952 from the Colony's funds.

Malaria.

Malaria incidence was unexceptional during the year. Few cases were recorded in the towns although hyperendemicity continued in the rural areas.

The Borneo Malaria Research Unit continued to be mainly preoccupied with work in North Borneo but it did carry out preliminary surveys in areas of the Fifth Division of Sarawak and in parts of Brunei. However, over the larger area of Sarawak the malaria map remains blank and the problems of the Sarawak vectors remain to be solved.

In 1949, *A. sundiacus* was apparently incriminated as a vector at Miri and this appeared to explain the coastal epidemics of malaria which had occurred from time to time in the past. However, during 1951 the Malaria Research Unit recorded nonviable bodies resembling sporozoites, but definitely not sporozoites, in the salivary glands of *A. sundiacus*. This casts considerable doubt on the findings at Miri in 1949 and thus the role of *A. sundiacus* in the transmission of malaria in Sarawak is again uncertain. A very great deal of investigation is required of this and other species of mosquitoes and it is hoped that more investigational work will be carried out in Sarawak in the near future. During 1951 application was made to the World Health Organisation for assistance in this regard, by the provision of an entomologist to carry out investigation and experimental control. The Organisation was prepared to assist and by the end of the year plans were sufficiently well advanced as to give rise to a real hope that the work would commence during the first quarter of 1952. Thus with the Malaria Research Unit in North Borneo and United Nations personnel working in Sarawak, the tempo of investigation should be materially increased.

During the year the total number of cases diagnosed as malaria at hospitals and dispensaries was 5,778, as compared with 6,689 cases in 1950, a very substantial reduction. As in the past the vast majority of these cases were diagnosed on clinical grounds.

Leprosy.

The number of cases admitted to the Leper Settlement during the year was 41 as compared with 66 in 1950, 59 in 1949 and 67 in 1948. The incidence of the disease does not, in consequence, appear to have changed to any great extent and certainly does not appear to have increased.

The Settlement population at the end of the year was 436 compared with 444 at the beginning of the year, the reduction, in spite of the year's admissions, being achieved very largely

by discharges of patients who had become bacteriologically negative as a result of treatment with the sulphone drugs. These during the year numbered 34. Each year since 1947 there has been a steady increase in the number of persons cared for in the Settlement with a consequent increase in the cost of operating the institution. For this reason alone a reduction in numbers is very welcome.

All persons discharged from the Settlement continued under oral D.D.S. treatment and had to report periodically for examination to the medical centre nearest to their homes. In the few instances of default those concerned were, as a disciplinary measure, returned to the Settlement. Several discharged cases found to have become bacteriologically positive once more were also returned to the Settlement. There is no doubt at all that the use of the sulphone drugs has led to an entirely different outlook on this disease, and persons admitted to the Settlement no longer feel that they are being subjected to a life sentence. However, problems are arising with regard to the re-absorption of discharged persons into the community and much education of the public at large is still required to enable the cured leper to be accepted with confidence by the people.

Poliomyelitis.

There was no epidemic outbreak during the year. Only six sporadic cases were recorded, one in Kuching, two in Sibu, one in Sibu Rural Area and two in other smaller centres in the Third Division. The last case occurred in August. All were paralytic cases and no deaths were reported.

Yaws.

This infection is met with all over the country and cases still frequently turn up at the hospital outpatient departments in the towns, the patients having come for treatment from nearby rural areas. However, there have been indications in the past two years that the incidence is declining and certainly fewer cases are being diagnosed now at outstation dispensaries and the travelling dispensaries than two years ago. There is at least a possibility that the decline may be due in part to treatment which is, in many areas, more readily available than it was in the past before the advent of the travelling dispen-

saries. During the year 11,930 cases were recorded at hospitals and dispensaries as compared with 7,592 cases in 1950 and 15,370 cases in 1949.

Diphtheria.

The incidence of this infection was not unusual in 1951. The number of cases recorded was 78 as compared with 46 cases in 1950 and 82 in 1949. Of the seventy-eight cases, sixty-two were recorded in Sibu.

The Enteric Fevers.

The number of typhoid cases notified was 70. The comparable figures for the three previous years were 76, 107 and 153 and thus the decline in incidence was maintained. No epidemic occurred and the cases occurred sporadically.

Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

Intestinal infections are very common in urban as well as rural areas, and dysentery and diarrhoea are diagnosed very frequently by hospital assistants in outstations. This is not surprising in view of the low sanitary standards of such a large proportion of the population. What is surprising, perhaps, is that no major epidemics occurred during the year.

Helminthiasis.

The proportion of the population harbouring intestinal parasites is very high. The commonest infestation is with the round worm, ascaris, but hookworm is also very common indeed, particularly in rural areas.

Venereal Diseases.

These diseases occur in all parts of the country but generally speaking the incidence is not unduly high even in the towns. During 1951, the number of cases of gonorrhoea diagnosed was 1,246, and of syphilis 1,357. The comparable figures for the previous year were 1,353 and 1,391.

Nevertheless these diseases are of great importance as was demonstrated early in the year by an investigation carried out in the Paku River of reported low fertility of the population. This investigation revealed a high sterility rate among the women and more than suggested that this was occasioned by venereal infection.

Deficiency Diseases and Malnutrition.

Gross malnutrition is uncommon in these days in Sarawak and deficiency diseases in severe form are not generally encountered. Admissions to Kuching and Sibü Hospitals classified as "Avitaminosis and other Deficiency States" numbered 66.

However, undernourishment in varying form is not uncommonly seen in infants at the Welfare Clinics and in older persons at the outpatient departments. Much of this is due to faulty customs and ignorance and, in such a prosperous period as the present, there can be little that is due to poverty. In certain areas of the country, although there is no accurate measure of the degree of malnutrition, it is known that, at certain times of the year, food supplies are deficient and the people go short while waiting for the new harvest.

Non-endemic Diseases.

No case of the major pestilences, plague, smallpox and typhus, occurred during 1951. Typhus has never been recorded in Sarawak and it is considerably more than twenty years since cholera or plague occurred. Smallpox occurs in neighbouring territories and, on one occasion, early in the year, action was called for following reports of the infection in longhouses in Indonesian territory close to Sarawak's frontier. Widespread vaccination was carried out and no cases appeared in this territory.

HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

As in the previous year Government operated three hospitals, twenty-four outstation dispensaries and seventeen travelling dispensaries, sixteen of which were river craft and one a road vehicle. Most outstation dispensaries have rest beds and simple inpatient treatment is provided. The total number of Government hospital beds in use during the year was 356, namely, 395 (including 100 mental beds) in Kuching General Hospital, 117 in the Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibü and 24 in Simanggang Hospital.

At Miri, the Sarawak Oilfields Limited operates its hospital of 124 beds primarily for its employees but by arrangement with the Company its hospital facilities are

made available to the public on repayment by Government. A similar arrangement with the Government of Brunei enables people of the Fifth Division to receive treatment in Brunei Hospital.

General Hospital, Kuching.

This is the largest and most elaborate medical institution in the Colony and it finished the year with 295 general and special beds and 100 mental beds. It is the training centre for hospital assistants, nurses, midwives, etc.

Staff difficulties have already been referred to and these prevented the full bed accommodation in the hospital being brought into use. The ward which had to be closed down last year remained out of use and, at one period of the year another ward was virtually closed down. This was only temporary, however, and, with the employment of additional assistant nurses it was brought into full operation again.

No major capital works were carried out in the General Hospital during the year but there were further minor improvements such as the provision of a very adequate practical teaching room. There was further steady improvement in equipment and the replacement of old equipment has now been practically completed. The main operating theatre and the X-ray department were air-conditioned with great benefit to staff working in these rooms.

The *Mental Hospital* is situated in the same compound as the General Hospital, Kuching, and accommodation is neither sufficient nor of a satisfactory nature. Throughout the year there was some overcrowding which increased the difficulties of caring for these patients in inadequate buildings. As much as was possible in the circumstances was done but it cannot be claimed that a high standard of treatment was achieved or that the institution was much more than a place of restraint. It was necessary during the year to carry out extensive repairs to buildings and to provide more secure accommodation for certain violent and dangerous patients. But all this is merely a temporary expedient and no final answer to the problem. It was thus gratifying that considerable progress was made in the planning of the proposed new mental hospital to be erected in Brunei to serve the three

British Borneo Territories. A site has now been agreed upon and plans of the institution have been prepared and accepted by the three Governments.

The Laboratory, also sited in the compound of the General Hospital, Kuching, as usual functioned in a very satisfactory manner and there was steady improvement in equipment. Work was carried out not only for the Medical Department but also for the Customs and Agricultural Departments and specimens were even received from the Medical Department of North Borneo. The potential of this institution is considerable and its development will be more rapid when it will eventually be possible to post to it a full time medical officer.

During the year the number of inpatients treated in the General Hospital was 5,271 as compared with 5,064 in the previous year.

Central Dispensary, Kuching.

This is the Outpatient Department of the General Hospital although sited in the centre of the town one and a half miles distant from the hospital. It is accommodated in two separate buildings and shares the available space with the central Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, and the Chest Clinic. The accommodation is sufficient for the outpatient department alone and totally inadequate for the additional activities mentioned. Staff and public are greatly inconvenienced by the inevitable overcrowding and work is carried out under real difficulties. It is quite the most unsatisfactory medical institution in Kuching and its replacement by a suitable new building is a matter of great urgency. During the year plans were prepared for a new building to provide adequate accommodation for the male and female outpatient departments, the Maternity and Child Welfare service, the dental service, a laboratory and a pharmacy. The scheme received the approval of Government and appropriate provision was made in the 1952 Estimates. The new building will be erected on a site adjoining that upon which the Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak will erect the building to accommodate the Chest Clinic Service, so that laboratory and other services can be shared.

Total outpatient attendances at the Central Dispensary during the year was 92,813 as compared with 73,506 in 1950.

*Maternal and Child Welfare Service.**(a) Welfare Clinics.*

As in the previous year three centres were in operation, two in Kuching and one in a rural area fifteen miles from Kuching. These were supervised by the Lady Medical Officer, who also had duties in the General Hospital, and by a Health Sister. The latter was on overseas leave during the year but, fortunately, during her absence the WHO/UNICEF sister in charge of the Domiciliary Midwifery Service, was able to carry out her duties.

The service continued to be very popular and there was a substantial increase in the number of attendances. The work was, however, seriously hampered by shortage of locally recruited staff and until these can be obtained there is no possibility of expanding the service either in Kuching or in other centres, such as Sibü and Miri, where it is greatly needed. Inadequate and unsuitable accommodation also hindered the work of the central clinic in Kuching.

The main centre in the Central Dispensary caters mainly for the Chinese, the Kampong Clinic exclusively for the Malays and the 15th Mile Clinic almost exclusively for the Land Dayaks. Attendances at all three centres showed a material increase over those of the previous year. Figures of attendances are shown below.

	<i>Main</i>	<i>Kampong</i>	<i>15th Mile</i>
<i>Infants</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Centre</i>	<i>Centre</i>
Total attendances ...	6002	614	2051
Total number of home Visits ...	3377	—	—
<i>Ante-natal Cases</i>			
Total attendances ...	6847	346	629
Visited at home ...	994	—	—
<i>Post-natal Cases</i>			
Total attendances ...	1060	56	148

The figure for home visits includes the Main Centre and the Kampong Centre. A number of Land Dayak compounds were visited from the 15th Mile Centre.

(b) Domiciliary Midwifery Service, Kuching.

Reference was made in the previous report to a proposal to start domiciliary midwifery service in Kuching with the

object of relieving pressure on the limited number of obstetric beds in the General Hospital and also to provide improved facilities for the training of midwives. The scheme was initiated in March and was under the care of the WHO/UNICEF Midwifery Tutor whose term of service was extended by a year to enable her to establish the service on sound lines. In the event, this lady resigned in October to get married but by then the service was operating smoothly and the local staff nurse who understudied the Midwife Tutor was fully capable of carrying on on her own. The service was staffed initially by the Staff Nurse, three trained midwives and one pupil midwife, the intention being as time went on to increase the number of pupil midwives. However, when the year closed it had not been found possible to increase staff and two trained midwives and two pupils were engaged on the work.

Cases suitable for home delivery are selected through the ante-natal clinics and are visited in their homes before the birth. The staff is on call through the twenty-four hours at the General Hospital and proceeds to the homes by bicycle. After delivery visits continue for ten days when the case is then handed over to the health visitor concerned.

During the nine months of its operation, 388 home deliveries were carried out by the service which is now firmly established and greatly appreciated by the public. A pleasing feature is the increasing use made of the service by the Malays, who are very reluctant to seek hospital treatment.

The Dental Clinic, Kuching.

Dental staff remained unchanged from the previous year. It consists of one Dental Officer, one Dentist on contract, a dental mechanic and one hospital mandor. This team has its headquarters at present in the General Hospital, Kuching, but will, next year, be moved to the new Health Centre to be built in the centre of the town. Two fully equipped dental surgeries are available and also a dental laboratory.

The service provided was much appreciated and made full use of particularly by Government officers and their families. Treatment was also provided for hospital inpatients and out-patients, patients referred from the Maternity and Child Welfare centres, and also school children. Visits paid by

dental staff to outstations at intervals throughout the year were extremely popular and much good work was done.

In September a local Chinese girl was granted a Scholarship by the New Zealand Government under the Colombo Plan to go to Wellington for the two years' training for Dental Nurses. On her return she will be of great use to the Department in providing dental services to school children.

Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibiu.

This busy hospital which serves the largest administrative division, had available throughout the year only one medical officer, and also was without a Nursing Sister. A Senior Staff Nurse acted as Nursing Sister and did very well, but there was not as much progress in the raising of standards of nursing and ward management as one would have wished for. This shortage of senior staff was a serious matter for it threw a considerable strain on available personnel and completely precluded visits by a medical officer to outstations in the Division.

A certain amount of building was achieved and internal reorganisation effected. With the completion of the mental observation ward referred to in last year's report, the old mental cells in the main hospital building were gutted and converted into a small, but useful, children's ward. A new Nurses' Home was erected during the year and this will be occupied in January, 1952. Also work on a tuberculosis ward had commenced by the end of the year. But, as in Kuching, the greatest need of the Sibiu Hospital is for a new and adequate outpatient department to be provided to replace the completely unsatisfactory temporary structure which at present is in use. Although funds were provided for this work it could not, unfortunately, be undertaken in 1951.

The old X-ray plant in the hospital broke down and was not considered worth repairing. To tide over the period until a new set could be ordered and delivered a portable apparatus was purchased in Singapore and installed in the Sibiu Hospital. It gave very good service indeed and did all that was asked of it.

There was a slight fall in the number of inpatients treated as compared with the previous year. The 1951 figure was

2,929 as compared with 3,064 for the previous year. Out-patient attendances, however, showed a satisfactory increase, total attendance being 28,379 as compared with 24,292 in 1950.

Confinements conducted in the hospital number 341 as compared with 265 in the previous year.

Simanggang Hospital.

The performance of this institution with twenty-four beds available throughout the year was very satisfactory. Admissions numbered 591, a slight reduction on the previous year's figure of 698. Here again, however, outpatient attendances showed an upward trend. Total attendances numbered 23,090 and new cases 18,811. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 19,075 and 15,722.

It had been planned to provide during the year a new general ward of twenty beds, a small ward for infectious cases and a mortuary, but because of building difficulties none of these buildings were completed when the year closed although the two wards were under construction and should be completed early in 1952. It is planned gradually to increase the bed strength of this hospital to seventy.

Outstation Dispensaries.

The number of outstation dispensaries functioning during the year was twenty-four, the same as in the previous year. One additional dispensary was established in a very remote part of the country, in the upper reaches of the Trusan River, to serve the Muruts, a population group much in need of medical care. It was not, however, found possible permanently to man this dispensary and visits at two monthly intervals by a hospital assistant had to suffice. Limited dispensary facilities were also made available to the small population in the remote Kelabit plateau.

Total attendances at these dispensaries were 120,705, slightly greater than in the previous year in spite of the fact that throughout the year, for the first time, nominal charges were levied in the case of persons who could afford to pay.

Once again supervision of the work of the hospital assistants in these dispensaries was completely inadequate, as such medical staff as was available was tied to the hospitals

and was unable to travel in the Divisions. In spite of this, however, there were few instances indeed where unfavourable reports were received and there is no doubt that, unsupervised as they were, the hospital assistants gave good service to the public.

The Travelling Dispensaries.

(Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D.850.)

The travelling dispensaries are native type boats (Perahu) suitably adapted and powered by outboard motors. They ply on fixed stretches of river, calling at convenient points on fixed days each week. They are manned by a hospital assistant, an attendant and a driver. Simple curative services are provided at each calling station and, in addition, the boats function as river ambulances bringing back to outstation dispensary or hospital those who require more elaborate treatment than can be provided from the travelling dispensary. There are sixteen of these units and they cover a very large area of the Colony's river system that was never, in the past, visited by medical staff.

On the whole these sixteen units operated satisfactorily throughout the year though the service was by no means free from trouble. In certain stations where facilities for engine maintenance were not good, engine troubles occurred, and with greater frequency as the year progressed. Interruptions to schedules were occasioned by this and in certain instances much travelling time was lost. It has become clear that the successful continuance of this service, is dependent on the organisation of facilities to service and maintain the engines. It now seems probable that the high speed outboard engines are not entirely suited to the hard and continuous work entailed and thus, in anticipation of major capital replacement being necessary when the present Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme ceases at the end of 1952, arrangements were made towards the end of the year for an experiment with an inboard Diesel engine. Although the initial cost of this type of inboard engine is greater than that of the outboards, running costs will be very much lower, maintenance will be simpler and, it is hoped, reliability greater. Should this experimental unit prove a success a change to these inboard engines will be made, in most cases, when the present scheme terminates. Some high powered outboards will, however, continue to be necessary in the upper reaches of certain fast flowing rivers.

Total attendances at the travelling dispensaries fell from 164,778 in 1950 to 112,380 in 1951, a drop of about 30%. This serious falling off of attendances can certainly, in part, be attributed to interrupted schedules but this is not the whole explanation. In the Dayak areas there is little doubt that with the wearing off of the novelty of the service there is less interest and only the sick now attend whereas before the sick and the curious sampled the new and readily accessible medicines. Nevertheless, certain District Officers on being asked to express opinion on the causes of the falling off of attendances have attributed it, in part, to a definite improvement in health.

The Leper Settlement.

This institution is situated thirteen miles from Kuching and is accessible by motor road.

The population of the Settlement at the end of the year was 436, six persons fewer than at 31st December, 1950, in spite of there having been 41 admissions during the year. The steadily increasing population of the Settlement over the past few years had given cause for some concern as costs of operating the institution materially increased and accounted for a substantial proportion of the Medical Department's budget. Thus even the slight reduction achieved in 1951 is welcome indeed, and in the light of modern treatment augers well for the future. Discharges from the Settlement during the year numbered thirty-four, considerably more than in any previous year; there were eleven deaths. Births in the Settlement numbered six. Practice is for confinements to be conducted in the Settlement hospital by a trained midwife from Kuching. Children are taken to the General Hospital and cared for there until it is old enough to be adopted.

The racial and sex distribution of the 436 inmates at 31st December was as follows:—

<i>Race.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Chinese	... 139	34	173
Malays (including Melanaus)	... 43	18	61
Dayaks	.. 145	57	202
	<hr/> 327	<hr/> 109	<hr/> 436

During the year, as the first stage of a building replacement scheme, one barrack block and one block of semi-detached quarters were erected. In addition the water supply was greatly improved by the installation of a new pumping engine and the replacement of much of the piping.

The various voluntary organisations, such as the Red Cross, Rotary and the Chinese Associations continued to interest themselves in Settlement affairs and did much to bring colour and interest to the lives of the inmates.

PORT HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

Three ports, namely, Kuching, Sarikei (for Sibu) and Miri are first ports of call for vessels from overseas. At each of these ports formalities are conducted by health inspectors but medical officers are available to deal with abnormal situations.

Kuching Airport remained the only airport at which aircraft from overseas make a first landing. The Airport is a designated sanitary aerodrome and a local area.

No infected vessels or aircraft entered during 1951.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

British Red Cross Society—Sarawak Branch.

During the year the Branch continued its activities in Kuching, Miri and Betong. The ambulance service did excellent work in Kuching and the First Division until September when the vehicle was involved in an accident and was a total loss. No replacement had been obtained by the end of the year.

Welfare work in the General Hospital, Kuching, the Mental Hospital and the Leper Settlement was carried out as in the past. Courses of lectures in First Aid and Nursing were held. The blood transfusion service was again of great assistance to the Medical Department and met all the demands placed upon it.

Sibu Benevolent Society.

This voluntary body is the longest established and, perhaps, the most active in the country. Its headquarters are in Sibu but, by its constitution, it serves the whole of the Third Division. Of its activities, the most important are the

provision of care for destitute aged persons and also chronic tuberculosis cases. A Home near Sibuan caters for the former category, while the tuberculosis cases are cared for in a Nursing Home in Sibuan itself. The nursing home buildings were very dilapidated and unsuitable and thus new premises were provided during the year. The Society provided the land and Government met the cost of erecting a new building.

The Society is supported mainly by public subscription but it also receives a monthly contribution from Government.

Missions.

During the year there was some increase in the medical activities of certain of the missions, their staff being augmented, in one case by a doctor, and in another, by a trained nurse and a public health nurse. Simple out-patient treatment continued to be provided at several mission stations and, at two, inpatients were cared for by nuns who are also qualified nurses.

(C) SOCIAL WELFARE.

Though Sarawak has no Social Welfare Department as such, the Government does in fact perform a considerable amount of social welfare work. Government charity votes for the relief of the needy are operated throughout the Colony by Administrative Officers. The Secretary for Chinese Affairs, in addition to his other duties, acts as Protector of Women and Girls, administers a repatriation vote and as Protector of Labour administers a Relief Work vote for Indians. His activities are not confined to the Chinese community, but extend to all non-indigenous communities. Charitable relief to needy Mohammedans is provided from a trust fund. The Government has also for many years maintained a Pauper Settlement, now known as the Home for the Aged.

Since the formation of a Social Welfare Advisory Committee in 1948, good work has been done in advising the Government on social welfare policy and practice. During the past years a Social Welfare Council, which was established, comprising representatives of all the various organisations which are interested in this kind of work, has been functioning well.

Most of the races in the interior of Sarawak lead a community life; the individual, incapacitated by illness or accident,

cannot be ignored or abandoned, and there is, in consequence, little or no destitution among these people. They rarely fail to provide foster-parents for orphans and succor for the needy in their midst. This does not mean that their standard of living is anything but low, and relief has frequently to be supplied by the Government in the event of a failure of the rice harvest.

There is a certain amount of destitution among the Chinese. The various Chinese communities have their own associations, which themselves, or with the help of Government, effect some relief within their own communities. Aged destitute males are taken into the Home for the Aged near Kuching. In Sibü, thanks to the efforts of a committee consisting of members of all communities, a Benevolent Society was established to which reference has been made above. This Society, aided by a grant from Government and considerable assistance with nursing staff and supervision from the Roman Catholic Mission, runs its own nursing home for the indigent and is doing excellent work. The Mission Churches and Convents care for a limited number of orphans, run small hospitals and nurseries in certain outstations, and are active in improving social conditions generally, while clubs, societies and youth organisations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, exercise a healthy influence beyond their own circles.

Juvenile delinquency exists in the principal towns; in Kuching the Boys' Home, opened in 1948, met with a setback during the year but it is hoped that the reorganisation effected under the direction of the Superintendent of Prisons, will enable it to continue its good work of turning potential young criminals into useful citizens.

The Boys' Club and Hostel established in August, 1949, has continued its good work in solving some of the major problems confronting homeless youths. This Club, on the lower floor of the building, is open from noon till 8.15 p.m., and provides a radio set, pingpong tables and newspapers; outside these periods football, basket-ball and volley-ball are organised for the boys on a nearby recreation ground. The Hostel on the upper floor can accommodate up to twelve boys and is intended to provide a temporary home for youths between the ages of 14 to 20. The Warden and the Board of Management help the boys to find suitable employment.

The Girls' Home established in 1950 continued under the management of the Salvation Army. This Home is used as a place of safety under the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance and the categories of girls who could be placed there are : mui tsais, girls who have been trafficked in, girls in need of protection whose guardians cannot be found and girls who have been victims of immoral offences and girls in moral danger, but in no case over the age of 18 years. Aged destitute females are taken in the Home and given assistance pending the organisation of a Home for the Aged (Females). The official opening ceremony of the Girls' Home took place on 15th November, 1951, to which His Excellency the Governor and many other prominent persons were invited. Two Officers from the Singapore Salvation Army are in charge and they work in close co-operation with the Protector of Women and Girls and the Lady Assistant Protector, who returned from Singapore in July, 1951, after a course of training in the Department of Social Welfare, Singapore, as a scholar under the UNICEF Scheme.

IX

Co-operative Development.

1951 was the third year of the Department's Five-Year Plan of Co-operative Development. The Plan remained unchanged but the Department was unable to complete the 1951 programme. Whereas in 1950, 39 Societies were added to the Register, only 18 were added during 1951. Requests to form Societies came from most Districts in Sarawak but very few could be accepted, and only in those Districts where Supervisors are stationed. Field officers were fully occupied supervising registered Societies and had little time to spare organising new ones. Thus, planned development and consolidation was once again confined to the few selected areas within the capacity of the Department—the Kuching and Serian Districts of the First Division, the Saribas and Kalaka Districts of the Second Division, and the Oya-Dalat and Mukah Districts of the Third Division.

The work done fell short of the Five-Year Plan as follows :—

(a) for lack of tutors (planned to be drawn from experienced field staff), the establishment of a Co-operative Staff School was postponed and training of staff and office-bearers of Societies was curtailed;

(b) expansion into the Simanggang and Lubok Antu Districts of the Second Division and into all Districts of the Third Division could not be attempted because of lack of staff;

(c) all work among Chinese peasants of the First Division came to a standstill, because of the resignation of one of two trained Chinese Supervisors;

(d) no progress could be made towards forming Farming Societies (although there were several applications) because land tenure problems invariably confused the issue;

(e) the Department had budgetted for 18 Field Officers in 1951; in fact it had only 13 at the end of the year.

Three Societies failed and orders for cancellation of two of these became effective before the end of the year. Thus the total number on the Register at the end of 1951 was 79.

For the Co-operative Officer, travelling in Sarawak in the Sea Dayak areas (where most Co-operative Development goes on) is arduous. It means unpleasant voyages in slow uncomfortable trading launches, an occasional trip in an outboard-propelled boat, being paddled or poled in small uncovered boats up and down streams subject to the wide variations of tropical weather, and walking over rough tracks through swamp or over hilly country. Equipment must be reduced to a minimum. Most work must be done at night in long-houses among the noise and turmoil of friendly human beings of all ages and, not infrequently, of animals. Therefore, after a few months of this weary travelling, reaction invariably sets in and the officer becomes discouraged, his enthusiasm evaporates and the quality of his work deteriorates. Sickness also takes its toll. Thus the quality of the field work done in 1951 was below that of 1950 in spite of the extra experience gained. Refresher courses at Headquarters for officers constantly travelling should have a beneficial effect, and it is hoped to arrange these in 1952.

To a great extent expansion depends upon the time the European official can devote to it. This is particularly true in the Sea Dayak areas where the presence of the European is desired at any meeting convened to make a decision of importance; it follows, then, that if the European devotes less time to travelling then less development takes place, and so in 1951, with only one Senior Officer on duty for the greater part of the year, only 18 Societies were registered, as against 39 in 1950 when two Senior Officers were employed between field and office.

Lest this review should appear too gloomy, it is stressed that Co-operative Development is still progressing with vigour wherever the Department operates. There *was* progress in 1951, but not as much as was wanted or planned. Back sliding on the part of a few Societies was detected, but this is a normal feature in Co-operation; after two or three years of work it is to be expected that weaknesses will appear, and in the long run the best remedy is to eliminate the worst offenders. Particularly is this true in the Sea Dayak areas

where the fear of shame from failure can be a very effective spur towards progress.

No organised opposition to Co-operation was recorded and it can now be stated with certainty that among the Malay community suspicion has been replaced by appreciation. The Chinese merchants remain suspicious and sceptical although a few of the more liberal-minded freely and publicly admit the virtues of the movement; most of the opposition from individuals comes from ignorance of the true objects of Co-operation. The unprecedented rise in the market value of agricultural produce, accompanied by soaring prices for all consumer goods, brought about abnormal situations sometimes favourable, sometimes unfavourable, to Co-operation.

Urban Co-operatives.

The three Thrift and Loan Societies were not spectacular in their progress but another year of experience left them more firmly entrenched, financially sound and stronger.

The Kuching Co-operative Stores Society, Limited, which came into being early in the year and commenced business in May, had a marked effect upon prices in the town. The wild fluctuations in the retail prices of essential commodities began to disappear and the Society's prices began to be accepted as the market prices of goods, whether the latter were in short demand or not. Memories are short, and it is doubtful if the good work done for salaried people in Kuching is fully realised, but the Society can look back with pride upon eight months of real service to all consumers.

A Co-operative Store belonging to the Constabulary operated on behalf of members of the Force in Kuching. It suffered a setback late in the year, but after re-organisation took new life. It is hoped to form a similar Co-operative in Sibn in 1952.

Rural Co-operatives.

The Rural Credit Societies increased their deposits from \$7,820 to \$17,881 and at the same time retailed goods worth \$20,250 realising a net profit of \$1,469. The policy of including powers for the bulk purchase and distribution of a few commodities in the by-laws of these Societies has now been proved a sensible one. All Societies indulging in this business made a profit, much to the satisfaction of members,

many of whom (as in the case of the Malays and Melanaus) see no point in saving unless it brings immediate and tangible proof of benefits.

Not all the Co-operative Stores were successful and two suffered comparatively heavy losses through their own un-business-like behaviour. Probably these two will be closed down in 1952 to serve as an example to others of how not to run a business. But in general the 13 rural stores provided a valuable service, and some of them are really good. Usually their greatest problem was that of wholesale purchase; being comparative newcomers in the field of trading they suffered when attempting to purchase goods in short supply and a certain amount of discrimination against them by wholesalers did not make their lot any the easier. But if this has done nothing else it has made them aware of the need for greater strength and good relations in business. Through the experience of these Societies of to-day will come the realisation of the need of a Co-operative Wholesale Society, and one group of four Sea Dayak Co-operatives is now making the first step in that direction by forming a Union to undertake purchase and distribution in bulk to its member Societies.

The 19 Savings Societies held deposits totalling \$40,632 at the end of the year—an increase of \$14,983 in one year. All of them showed a profit.

Although Padi Milling Societies increased in number from 4 to 6 only, the activity in development of this type was really greater and will be felt in 1952 when the number should on present indications increase to about 15. The padi mill in the Sea Dayak village is playing a big part in Co-operative education. It relieves the labour of the women, it demonstrates visually the achievement of the group and gives the members pride, it demonstrates the need for loyalty in Co-operation, by its simple administration patronage bonus is easy to understand, the benefits of cash for work done are clear, and these small experiments in business in which most of the capital is sunk in a small compact machine provide valuable preliminary training for more diverse projects.

Miscellaneous Co-operatives.

The Kuching Henghua Fishermen recorded further progress towards forming their own village, and the roads and many of the houses should be built in 1952.

The Hostel Society lay dormant because of the soaring cost of construction which precluded any attempt to build the Hostel.

The Farming Co-operative is also dormant—all the members were attracted away by high wages offered elsewhere. No progress can be expected until values become more rational. On the other hand, the Sungei Paku Farming Co-operative planting padi made good progress and an excellent crop is expected.

General Observations.

Once again it was not possible fully to exploit the high prices of agricultural produce even in the areas in which the Department operated, although most Societies saving money showed substantial increases in their members' deposits. Requests for such Societies continue, but to form and register them, and then leave them without supervision because of lack of trained supervisory staff would be disastrous, and so such Societies appeared only in the areas already being developed.

Once again, also, no Marketing Societies were registered, and none can be expected until the values of primary products fall to the point where the margin between the sale price by individual producers to middlemen and the sale price by bulk becomes of interest and importance to the producer.

Now that the prices of primary products appear to be taking a definite downward trend it may be permissible to take stock to see if Co-operation has been of any material assistance to the primary producer of Sarawak. There can be no doubt that wherever the producer is a member of a Society he has benefited through Co-operation. As a member of a Rural Credit Society he has savings to his credit in the Society, probably short-term loans are available, and he has benefited by the purchase of goods at reasonable prices through his Society's bulk purchasing organisation; if he is a member of a Savings (money) Society he has funds in deposits for his future use; if he belongs to a Padi Savings Society he is assured of a reserve of food and probably has deposits of money standing to his credit in the Society's books, derived from the bulk sale of padi stocks; if he is a member of a Padi Milling Society he has obtained a service which has released his women-folk for work in the fields with him, he holds valuable

milling done at cost price to the Society since it has always been policy in these Societies to aim at recovery of capital outlay in three years; if he is a member of a rural Co-operative Store he has obtained a service previously denied him and has saved money, and the capital value of his store remains in his village; and the members of the one and only Padi Farming Society are now firmly established on good farming land for the first time. Wherever a Co-operative has been established the members are better off materially and have something put aside for the future. But there is no gainsaying the fact that the total number of members of such Societies is as yet only a minute proportion of the rural population of Sarawak, and, therefore, Co-operation has not yet conferred much benefit upon the people as a whole.

The following table shows the type and number of Co-operative Societies registered at the end of 1951 :—

(a) Thrift and Credit Societies of unlimited liability (known as Rural Credit Societies) ...	25
(b) Thrift and Credit Societies of unlimited liability accepting padi (and not money) deposits	3
(c) Thrift and Credit Societies of limited liability (known as Urban Thrift and Loan Societies)	3
(d) Thrift and Credit Societies of limited liability saving padi only	2
(e) Thrift Societies of limited liability (known as Rural Savings Societies)	19
(f) Consumer Societies (known as Stores Societies, 13 rural, 2 urban)	15
(g) Producers' Processing Societies (5 padi mills and 1 padi mill and electric lighting plant combined)	6
(h) Hostel Society (a Secondary Society formed by Saribas Co-operatives)	1
(i) Other Societies (a Chinese Society of fishermen pledged to form a model village, a Chinese Sea Transport Society, one Chinese and one Sea Dayak Farming Society, and a Malay Cattle Farming Society)	5
Total ...	79

X

Legislation.

During the year the legislature has continued to observe the two cardinal principles already generally apparent in the post-war legislation of the Colony: in existing law, amendment and consolidation; in new law, enactment of legislation dealing with social and economic development and welfare. Out of the twenty-seven Ordinances enacted during the year no less than sixteen were amending Ordinances; one Ordinance, the *Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance*, reformed and consolidated an earlier Ordinance of 1948, which experience had proved difficult of administration; and another Ordinance, the *Labour Ordinance*, whilst also providing a comprehensive code designed to regulate relations between workers and their employers, will when it comes into force repeal the existing Labour Protection and Labour Conventions Ordinances, and effectively amend and consolidate the law relating to labour.

Another principle is, however, to be detected in the year's legislation. With the enactment of the *Currency Ordinance*, which came into force on January 1, 1952, Sarawak came within the framework of the Malaya-British Borneo Currency Agreement, which established a Currency Commission for the Federation of Malaya, the Colonies of Singapore, Sarawak and North Borneo, and the State of Brunei. Under this Ordinance Sarawak will enjoy a common currency with its nearest commercial neighbours, an arrangement likely to lead to the withdrawal and demonetisation of Sarawak currency, but one of considerable convenience to travellers and merchants. The principle of integrating the affairs of Sarawak with those of its neighbours, upon which that Ordinance is based, also found expression during the year in the promulgation of the *Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (Courts) Order in Council*, which came into operation on December 1, 1951, and established for the Colonies of Sarawak and North Borneo and the State of Brunei one Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal.

As a result of the Order in Council certain local legislation became necessary: the *Courts Ordinance* amended and consolidated the law relating to the constitution and powers of civil and criminal courts (other than native courts) and repealed the former Courts Ordinance (Chapter 3 in the Revised Edition of the Laws), the Circuit Courts Ordinance, 1947, and the Rule Committee Ordinance, 1949; the *Native Courts (Amendment) Ordinance* made consequential amendments to the Native Courts Ordinance (Chapter 4 in the Revised Edition of the Laws); and the *Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance* made a comprehensive revision of the Criminal Procedure Code (Chapter 62 in the Revised Edition of the Laws). These three Ordinances are to come into force on May 1st, 1952, when magistrates, police officers and others will have had sufficient time to familiarize themselves with their various provisions.

Among the Ordinances enacted during the year and not mentioned above the following are of interest—

The *Native Customary Laws Ordinance*, designed to provide for the variation of the customary law of any native race in the Colony. The customary laws of certain native races were from time to time prior to the coming into force in 1941 of the Constitution Ordinance reduced to writing. With the coming into force of the latter Ordinance, however, it became necessary, if the natural development and evolution of native customary law was not to be frustrated, to have legislative sanction to effect any further alterations or amendments. The Ordinance provides the necessary legal machinery to achieve this object. The Ordinance which consists of four short sections, is therefore of interest not only to natives of the Colony, but also to those jurists interested in law in the making.

The *Governor's Powers (Delegation) Ordinance* and the *Governor in Council's Powers (Delegation) Ordinance* enable certain statutory powers of the Governor and the Governor in Council to be delegated. Until the enactment of these two Ordinances local law contained no provision for delegation, a power desirable in view of the burden imposed upon both the Governor and the Governor in Council by an increasing number of Ordinances.

The *Consular Conventions Ordinance*, which made provision for conferring certain powers and privileges upon the consular officers of foreign States with which consular conventions are concluded by Her Majesty.

The *Boy Scouts Association Ordinance*, which follows similar legislation in force in neighbouring territories and extends a statutory protection to the uniform, badges and emblems of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations in the Colony.

The *Rent Control (Amendment) Ordinance*, which amended the Rent Control Ordinance, 1948, in certain important respects, for example by enabling a landlord to increase the rent of his principal tenant, upon certain conditions, on an increase in the rateable value of the premises let, and also by affording protection to the widow of a statutory tenant under the Ordinance.

Subsidiary legislation promulgated during the year has included regulations made under the Constabulary Ordinance, 1948, and providing for the payment of good conduct allowances to certain members of the Sarawak Constabulary; an order made under the Cattle (Control) Ordinance, 1950, forbidding the slaughter or export from the Colony of cows and female buffaloes, except under licence; the first by-laws dealing with local education to be made by a Local Authority under the Local Authority Ordinance, 1948; a variation in estate duty levied under the Estate Duty Ordinance, permitting certain relief from duty in cases of "quick succession", on the lines of that conceded in the United Kingdom; new rules under the Land and Land Settlement Ordinances; regulations made by virtue of the *Local Authority (Amendment) Ordinance*, (enacted during the year) and making detailed provision for the levy of rates by certain Local Authorities; comprehensive Port Health Regulations and Port Health (Air Navigation) Regulations, promulgated under the Prevention of Disease Ordinance; and rules made under the *Registration of Births and Deaths Ordinance*, 1951, and prescribing certain forms in English, romanised Malay, Jawi and Chinese.

Throughout the year there has been an increasing interest on the part of Local Authorities in subsidiary legislation designed to augment local revenue. It seems clear that the merits of the Local Authority Ordinance of 1948 are at last

beginning to be appreciated by those authorities for whom it was designed; in Sibü, for example, the former Municipal Board working under the Municipal Ordinance of 1933 has been replaced by the Sibü Urban District Council, a Local Authority working under the Ordinance of 1948. Such progress in the growth of local civic consciousness represents a major development in the legal history of local government in the Colony, and the task of advising and drafting legislation for those Local Authorities anxious to fulfil their civic responsibilities is likely to become more arduous as they continue to advance along the road to autonomy.

XI

Law and Order.

(A) JUSTICE.

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance is recognized to a limited extent, but only insofar as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance.

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Law Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the Colony and of its qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

On the 1st December, 1951, the Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (Courts) Order in Council, 1951, came into force. This Order in Council established one Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal, for the Colonies of Sarawak and North Borneo and the State of Brunei. The present disposition of the Judges is as follows :—the Chief Justice at Kuching, the Senior Puisne Judge at Jesselton, North Borneo, and two other Puisne Judges, one at Kuching and the other at Sibü. The newly-established High Court supersedes the former Circuit Courts, and the appellate jurisdiction, formerly exercised by the Chief Justice of Sarawak, now vests in the newly-established Court of Appeal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal); the Court of Small Causes (civil); the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal). A new Courts Ordinance was passed on the 5th December, 1951, but it does not come into operation until the 1st May, 1952. Reference to this Ordinance will be made in next year's report.

Apart from the Courts mentioned in the preceding paragraph there are the Native Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance. These are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

Probate and Administration.

The Registrar assumed official administration of eleven deceased persons' estates under the powers vested in him by section 3 of the Administration of Estates Ordinance (Cap. 80). These estates were duly administered and the assets and property, after payment of the deceaseds' just debts and liabilities, were distributed amongst all the heirs and beneficiaries according to the shares they are entitled to by law and custom.

A large estate fell during the year which paid the maximum rate of duty of 20%.

Lunatic Persons' Estates.

The official Assignee administered three lunatic persons' estates. One was a Government servant, another was a barber and the third an Indian merchant.

Bankruptcy.

Three bankruptcy petitions were filed during the year. In all three cases the debtors managed to settle the creditor's claim by instalments after which the bankruptcy proceedings were annulled.

Deeds.

There was a slight increase in the number of documents registered under the provisions of the Registration of Deeds

Ordinance during the year over that of 1950. These comprise, powers of attorney, transfers, etc., and there has been a marked increase in the number of agreements registered. Bills of Sales have also shown an increase over those of 1950.

Business Names and Limited Companies.

Fifty-seven new business firms were registered under the Business Names Ordinance. The majority of these are dealers in general merchandise, piece-goods and groceries.

Two locally incorporated and four foreign limited liability companies were registered. These comprise two insurance companies, three general merchant companies and one banking company.

Patents and Trade Marks.

Four grants of "Exclusive Privileges" were issued during the year. All of these are United Kingdom patents.

There was an appreciable increase in the number of new trade marks registered. Renewals of registration amounted to thirty-six.

Trusts.

In the absence of a Public Trustee in the Colony the Registrar was appointed by the Court to administer two trust estates, one of which was a trust estate in a partnership concern, and the other a trust created by the will of a deceased person.

Court Fees, Fines, Forfeitures and Deposits.

There was an increase in the volume of transactions under this heading over that of 1950. The Registrar is also responsible for the direct supervision of this section in addition to his normal duties.

Money Lenders.

Two new Money Lenders Licences were issued, and seven renewals of Licences affected during the year.

(B) THE SARAWAK CONSTABULARY.

Strength and Recruitment.

A new appointment of Deputy Commissioner was made during the year and there was an increase of one Gazetted

Officer on the time scale bringing the present approved strength to 18 Gazetted Officers in addition to the Commissioner and his Deputy. Four of the Gazetted Officers included in the establishment are earmarked for duty with the police of Brunei State, adjoining Sarawak territory.

The Gazetted Officer strength was two below establishment at the end of the year.

At the end of 1951 there was a shortage of seven Inspectors in the authorised strength of twenty-six. Efforts to recruit Inspectors locally were not successful and suitable material for promotion to that rank was not found within the Force.

The Force, as a whole was 138 under strength at the end of the year. This shows a decrease of twenty-three over the deficiency for the previous year, which may be ascribed, to some extent, to the filip given to recruitment during the latter part of 1951 by the introduction of better pay, increased welfare facilities and publicity in the proper quarters. However there is no room for complacency as the effect of these improved conditions is being offset by the steady rise in the cost of living and the continuing increase in the wages available to unskilled labour in the oil, rubber and sago industries.

Enlistments during the first half of 1951 were only thirteen, but between July and December 126 new members were received into the Force, making, in all, an intake of 139 recruits during the year. There was a high rate of rejections on medical grounds among those who offered themselves for recruitment.

There was an increase in the number of Murut, Kayan and Kenyah recruits, and some Kelabits were, for the first time, taken into the Force during the year.

Casualties.

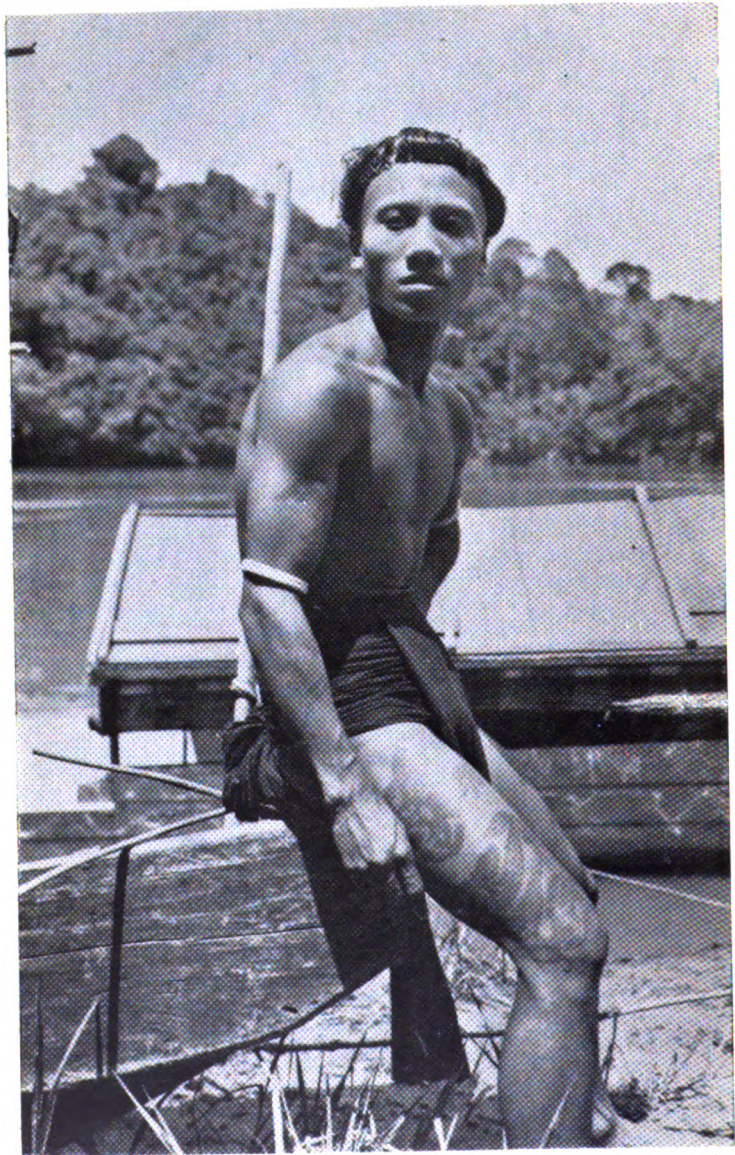
There was a further drop in the number of men discharged for inefficiency. This may be attributed to improved methods of training and more discrimination in the selection of illiterate recruits.

During 1951, 52 experienced men voluntarily resigned from the Force to take up more lucrative employment elsewhere. This leakage is difficult to check. Intelligent men who were illiterate on joining, find that their value in the



[Straits Times photograph.

Malay policeman on duty outside the Istana, Kuching, the official residence of the Governor.



[Straits Times photograph.]

*Young Sea Dayak resting on his prahu on the banks of
the Rejang River.*

labour market has been considerably increased by the training and discipline to which they subjected in the Constabulary.

Education and Training.

Of the 139 recruits admitted during the year 122 were illiterate and had to be given instruction in reading and writing Romanized Malay. The majority of them are keen and are making satisfactory headway. In addition to these studies, they follow the regular Training School curriculum for all recruits.

Only six recruits were discharged during the year as unlikely to become efficient.

English continued to be taught at the main centres. Attendance at classes is not compulsory but these are well patronised. In the Police Training School and in Miri the teachers reported excellent progress by the various classes. In the Police Training School the position as regards students of English was as follows at the end of the year :—

Senior Class	...	...	7 men
Intermediate Class	...	...	12 „
Junior Class	...	...	15 „

A number of N.C.O's and men attended Refresher Courses at the Training School during 1951. When the staffing position is better, more advanced classes will be held.

Every N.C.O. in the Force was put through a short course in Riot Drill and the law relating to Unlawful Assemblies and all had to pass a test at the end of the course.

One Dayak Gazetted Officer undertook a course of training at the Police College, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, during the early part of the year.

Welfare.

The Constabulary Co-operative Store caters for the needs of men at Headquarters, Special Branch, C.I.D., Police Training School, and Kuching Central Station. Its membership now totals 434, and the turn-over for 1951 was \$157,485. A Co-operative Store may be opened in Sibu during the coming year.

The Constabulary Thrift and Loan Society continued to expand and membership has now reached 675, an increase of 373 over 1950.

The police are encouraged to grow their own rice and vegetables, especially in outstations where the cost of goods is higher owing to increased transport charges. A police communal garden was started at Sibu and has proved to be very successful. Vegetables were made available to the men at an infinitesimal cost as compared with the prices ruling in the market and shops. When a suitable police craft becomes available it is intended to convey monthly essential supplies to the main centres where re-distribution can take place. It will thus be possible for the policeman in out-of-the-way places to live within his means without any lowering of standards.

The Inspectors and Rank and File Welfare Committees, which were started in 1950, continued to hold regular meetings during 1951.

A canteen run by policemen for policemen was opened at the Training School. It includes a reading room where the men can read or study undisturbed. The fittings were chosen with an eye to comfort and homeliness and it has been very well patronised.

The personnel of the Training School have now their own laundry run on modern lines and at a minimum cost to the users.

Messing arrangements have been further improved at the Training School and the men have been given a varied and well-balanced diet at a cheap rate. The effect of this is obvious in the better appearance of the recruits and the increased energy brought to their work.

During the year, films supplied by the Government Information Officer have been shown to the men and their families in Kuching.

A very successful sports meeting was held in Kuching on the 20th October, 1951. Many attractive prizes were presented by members of the various communities. When a new parade ground is ready Colony police sports will be held.

Health.

The health of the Force showed an improvement over the previous year. There was a considerable drop in the number of men requiring treatment at the dispensary and in hospital. This may be due to better conditions of service and more attention to personal hygiene.

There was a decided decrease in the number of men malingering or reporting sick for trivial reasons. Only nine such cases were reported.

Discipline.

There has been a noticeable drop in the total number of disciplinary offences between 1950 and 1951. This can be attributed to the introduction of improved salary rates and the development of welfare facilities. It has been the policy during the past two years to refrain from inflicting a financial penalty when other suitable means of correction were available. A total of 15 men were dismissed and, of this number, 13 had been convicted in Court mainly in respect of sleeping whilst on armed sentry duty. The remaining 2 men were dismissed on other disciplinary grounds.

Stations.

One new police station was opened during 1951 at Tebedu in the First Division, in a frontier district. There are now 55 stations in the Colony, and of these, nine are on VHF Radio communication with Headquarters and three on HF radio, with extensions to Brunei, and to Labuan, and Jesselton in North Borneo.

Special Branch.

A further re-organisation of the Special Branch is contemplated. The Branch is to come under the direct control of the Deputy Commissioner, and a Superintendent will be posted for duty in the Oilfields area to cover the Northern part of the Colony and the State of Brunei.

Marine Branch.

The Marine Unit which was started in 1950 now consists of two Sergeants-Major, one Corporal, two Lance-Corporals and six Constables. Government will be asked to increase the Inspectorate strength so that men with sufficient authority and nautical qualifications will be available at all times in each launch.

When the staffing position permits, it is intended to re-organise this Unit. A gazetted officer with naval experience will train the men along proper marine police lines.

It is hoped to increase the number of *sampans* for police use in outstations.

The non-availability of craft naturally restricts the movement of both officers and supervising N.C.O's.

Police sea transport consists of 1 motor launch and 39 sampans. Outboard engines are available for 9 other craft.

Government have purchased a steel hull for conversion into a craft suitable for police work.

Auxiliary Constabulary.

Owing to the shortage of Gazetted Officers it was not possible to give more than a limited amount of instruction to members of the Auxiliary Constabulary. When the necessary staff is available this deficiency will be made good.

During the year amending legislation came into force. As was anticipated, this eliminated those members who were not interested in the Auxiliary Constabulary work as such, but in the cash payment received for services.

At the end of the year the strength of the Auxiliary Constabulary was as follows:—

Commandant	...	...	1
Inspector	...	...	1
Constables	...	...	263

The Auxiliary Force is 50% under strength.

Police Band.

The band carried out 49 public and 17 private engagements. The fees collected amounted to \$2,550. A number of re-conditioned musical instruments were purchased during the year. Public concerts were given at the Museum Gardens and also at various places during the regatta season.

It is generally agreed that the band under the capable direction of the Director of Music has continued to improve.

Buildings.

Eight new houses were built for Inspectors during the year, and accommodation for ninety families of the Rank and File was provided. Lecture sheds to seat 150 men were erected at the Training School.

The replacement of dilapidated quarters and buildings by new ones will continue during the forthcoming year.



[Straits Times photograph.]

Members of the Band of the Sarawak Constabulary.



A mobile cinema operated by the Government of Sarawak Information Service.
[G.S.I.S. photograph.]

Defence and security.

Owing to the shortage of officers, it became necessary to decentralise defence and security duties except those in relation to V.I.P's.

There were 3,357 registered aliens in the Colony at the end of the year. It is considered that this figure falls far short of the actual number of residents subject to the Alien Laws but owing to the difficulties of communication with remote areas and the ease of ingress over frontier passes the movement of aliens is not always easy to control. It is hoped that with adequate manpower and the extension of radio telephony facilities the problem will present fewer difficulties.

Security checks were held at various places throughout the year, and of the 137,722 persons examined, 229 unregistered aliens were discovered. This resulted in 26 prosecutions under the Aliens Ordinance. These show an increase of approximately 10,000 over the 1950 figures of persons examined but a decrease of 17 in the number of resultant prosecutions.

Crime.

The crime rate was even lower than in 1950. There were eight reports of murder as compared with nine in the previous year, 57 reports of housebreaking as against 69 in 1950, and 690 reports of theft as compared with 720 in 1950.

If the boom conditions and full employment in the rubber, sago and oil industries do not continue, it is likely that the crime rate will increase, especially in respect of offences against property.

*(C) PRISONS.**Penal Administration.*

The Prisons Department consists of a Central Prison at Kuching, one female prison at Bau, three Divisional prisons situated at Simanggang, Sibu and Bintulu and ten small outstation prisons. The remainder have been converted into lock-ups or other Government buildings. The headquarters offices are situated in the Kuching Prison.

The department is administered by a Superintendent who during the year continued to combine this duty with the running of the Kuching Prison and the Kuching Boys' Home.

An Assistant Superintendent, who left for a course in the United Kingdom in September, was also stationed in Kuching. District Officers, appointed as Deputy Superintendents, to supervise and run the various outstation prisons.

Administration of the Prisons has been generally satisfactory. The standard of efficiency and discipline of the warders has been fairly good. The high price of rubber, pepper and other goods and the consequent opportunities of more lucrative employment elsewhere has made it impossible to keep the Prison Warder establishment up to strength during the year. There has been a steady decrease in prison population in all prisons.

There has been a little improvement in the degree of public interest shown in penal reform and prisons' after-care; but it continues to be difficult to arouse public interest in assistance to voluntary classes and after-care work.

All prisons are visited monthly by Visiting Boards composed of Magistrates and representatives of the various racial communities and Prisoners' complaints and requests are dealt with by these boards. A Prisoners' Aid Committee has now been formed; the Kuching Rotary International assist greatly in this matter and in the rehabilitation of prisoners from the Kuching Prison on discharge. The Prison authorities continue to assist in obtaining work for prisoners on discharge.

Every endeavour has been made to develop the principles of modern prison vocational training in the running of the Kuching Prison but the difficulties to be overcome due to the lack of space and general facilities makes this extremely difficult.

During the course of the year a Prison camp was established at Batu Lintang (a rural area about two miles from the Prison). The building was erected by prisoners and made out of salvaged timber from condemned Government bungalows. Here, long sentence prisoners serving their last three months are sent for rehabilitation purposes. An area of 3 acres is under vegetable cultivation and the prisoners are under the supervision of one prison officer, who lives with them. So far this scheme has proved a complete success and the prison has become self-supporting in vegetables and has also been able to supply the Constabulary Depot needs. No additional trade parties were established. The revenue for

the year reached the figure of \$48,287.07 (£5,633. 9s. 10d.) and the saving to Government through purchases of Prison made articles instead of buying locally was \$50,773.13 (£5,923. 10s. 8d.)

The prison diet was altered slightly during the year, red beans being added to the rice ration and various fruits as in season issued in place of the daily banana as before, with beneficial results.

The Leaders and Trusted prisoners system is still working efficiently and the general earning scheme for prisoners has now been introduced, every prisoner serving a sentence of over one month being entitled to earnings. The rates are—labourer 50 cents, trainee \$1.00, artisan \$1.50, per week, out of this sum a prisoner must save 20 cents, 40 cents and 50 cents per week respectively, the remainder can be spent on small luxuries such as biscuits, sugar, appetisers, etc.

Approval for the new Prison Ordinance and new Prison Rules mentioned in last year's report has not yet been obtained.

The Prison Commissioners conference for South East Asia was held in Penang in December and the Superintendent of Prisons attended. He also took the opportunity of visiting the Singapore and Malayan prisons—Kuala Lumpur, Taiping and Penang.

Recidivism.

At the end of the year there were 15 recidivists out of a total of 116 prisoners serving sentences in the Colony. It is considered that the position in regard to recidivism is on the whole satisfactory. At the present time there is plenty of work available and there should be no necessity for a person to resort to crime when work is easy to get and wages are so high.

Juvenile Offenders.

Juvenile offenders serve their sentences at the Kuching Boys' Home, which is now administered by the Superintendent of Prisons. During the visit of Mr. Hilton the Home was found to be in an unsatisfactory condition and as a result of a Board of Enquiry it was decided by the Governor in Council that it should again be administered by the Superintendent of Prisons.

Classification of Prisoners.

As far as possible habitual offenders are kept separate from first offenders. However this is not always practicable owing to insufficient warders and the type of buildings.

Spiritual Welfare and Education.

Representatives of the various religious communities continued to visit prisoners in the Divisional prisons during the year. In Kuching mass was celebrated regularly in the prison and a spiritual welfare class was started by the Roman Catholic Mission. Priests of the Anglican Mission also visit and hold communion. Several Dayak prisoners are receiving Christian instruction and have adopted either the Church of England or Roman Catholic faiths.

General Welfare and Education.

A number of prisoners have continued to show great interest in education during the year. The Government Training School Kuching has sent voluntary teachers to take classes and also three prisoners (leaders) have given English, Chinese and Romanised Malay lessons twice weekly. A Chinese voluntary teacher has also attended the Kuching Prison twice weekly for instruction in handicrafts.

General Welfare.

Every endeavour has been made to obtain the services of voluntary visitors but with poor results. An efforts was made during the year and a meeting called, which was attended by many of the local Chinese merchants and others, to try and interest the public in prison social work, but very little was accomplished.

Library and Organised Games.

The library is very popular among the prisoners, and books for reading in Malay, Chinese and English have been provided. The British Red Cross Society is still making weekly donations of books and periodicals to the library. Facilities for badminton, volley ball, table tennis, chess and draughts continue to be available for prisoners during their recreational period.

Health and diet.

The small prison hospital at Kuching is still proving a great success and most cases are treated within the prison, only those of a serious nature being sent to the Government General Hospital for treatment.

Labour

No additional trade parties have been added during the year. The following is a list of the present trade parties:—

- (i) Basket making and reseating of chairs
- (ii) Blatt making
- (iii) Coir mat making
- (iv) Brick making
- (v) Tinsmithing
- (vi) Blacksmithing
- (vii) Carpentering
- (viii) Shoe repairing
- (ix) Laundry
- (x) Tailoring
- (xi) Builders.

Remission.

Remission of sentences is granted to prisoners sentenced to imprisonment exceeding one month. The amount of remission at present granted to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth, and to those serving over one year one-fourth, of the sentence. Female prisoners serving sentences up to one year receive one-sixth and over one year one-third remission of their sentence.

XII

Public Utilities.

Electricity Supply.

The Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited is responsible for the public lighting and power services throughout the country. This Company was formed in 1932 to take over the Government electricity undertakings then operated at Kuching, Sibu and Mukah only. In addition to these three stations the Company now operates in Miri, Bintulu, Mukah, Binatang, Sarikei, Betong and Simanggang. Government holds the majority of the shares, the remainder being held by Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore who are also the General Managers.

Electrical equipment has come forward from the manufacturers very slowly since the war, which fact, coupled with the greatly increased demand for electricity due to the boom conditions during the last two years made it necessary to refuse many requests for additional supplies; some dissatisfaction was caused thereby. Difficulties have been further aggravated by a severe shortage of copper wire for transmission lines.

It was found possible to keep the Charges at 30 cents per unit throughout the year in spite of increases in the cost of fuel and labour.

The existing capacity of the Kuching Station is 1243 KVA but orders were placed during the year for a new 500 KVA generating set and two new substations of 300 KVA each with a view to increasing the generating capacity by 87%. Total units generated during the year were 2,726,090 which shows a 16% increase on 1950. The D.C. supply was closed down during the year and two D.C. 100 KW generating sets despatched for use at Miri, which had not been installed at the end of the year.

At Sibu the changeover from D.C. to A.C. was still going on at the end of the year and was not expected to be completed until mid 1952. Total units generated stood at 826,139 showing an increase of 25% on 1950. The station capacity

is 190 KVA plus 50 KVA not yet in commission and 112.5 KW D.C.

Supplies at Miri, Sarikei, Binatang, Betong and Simanggang were inadequate and had to be restricted. Capacities will be increased as soon as generating sets become available.

Capacities of existing small stations all of which are D.C. are as follows:— Miri 75 KW, Mukah 47 KW, Sarikei 50 KW, Binatang 25 KW, Bintulu 22 KW, Simanggang 25 KW and Betong 18 KW.

Total units generated by the Company throughout the Colony in 1951 were 3,525,200 being 17% increase on 1950; total number of consumers was 3,531 an increase of 12%.

Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works.

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works, Kuching, is a publicly owned Establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management and carries a staff of 45 permanent employees with a European Manager in charge.

The dry dock, opened during the year 1912, is 240 feet in length, 40 feet wide at the entrance and vessels up to 9 feet draft can be docked at spring tides. The dock entrance is closed by a steel caisson operated by the rise and fall of the tide, with pumping machinery to deal with water below tide level.

A steam driven jib crane with a lifting capacity limited to 5 tons is installed at the dock wharf.

Adjacent to the dry dock is a slipway constructed for launches up to 40 feet in length and 13 feet beam.

The machine shop is equipped with electric and oxy-acetylene welding apparatus, small brass melting furnace and a range of machine tools suitable for general mechanical engineering repairs comprising maintenance to hulls and machinery of local vessels, Public Works Plant, factory equipment and other utilities requiring mechanical engineering service.

During the year a new Punching, Shearing and Cropping Machine has been installed.

The machine tools are fitted with individual drives from alternating current motors using current from the town supply.

During the year ending December 31st 1951, 46 vessels were dry docked and 20 launches slipped for repairs.

Water Supplies.

Kuching.

Kuching water supplies are obtained from a Waterworks Reserve catchment area on the upper slopes of the Matang range, situated about 10 miles west of the Town. The water is of excellent quality and undergoes no treatment of any kind. The range rises abruptly from the coastal plain, making it impossible to locate an impounding reservoir of a suitable size at the correct contour level.

It is collected by means of dams on four main streams, together with a very small impounding reservoir arranged so as to give a gravitational supply to the town. During heavy rain the control valves at the dams are closed to prevent turbid water from entering the system.

The water is conveyed to Kuching through three quarters of a mile of open channel, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 9" pipe, $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of 12" pipe and $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 14", 16" and 15" pipe. The pipeline crosses the Sarawak River on a 700 feet suspension bridge which was erected for the purpose. The main crosses this bridge on two 12" pipe, one on each side of a narrow central carriageway. The service reservoirs in Kuching are two steel tanks, one of 2 million gallons capacity and one of 1,600,000 gallons.

In addition there are two old reservoirs which are only used in a case of real drought, as they are low enough to necessitate pumping and chlorination of the water.

The actual distribution system is by approximately 30 miles of pipe varying from 3" to 9" in diameter. There are about 3,000 services connected up and all the private ones are metered. Water is charged for at 45 cents per thousand gallons with a minimum charge of \$1.00 per month. The smallest size of meter is provided free and there is a small rent for the larger sizes. Water supplied to shipping is charged for at the rate of \$1.00 per ton.

Prior to the Japanese war the consumption was nearly one million gallons per day. During the drier months of the year short rainless periods occur when the run-off drops below one million gallons per day but the storage available was

usually sufficient to provide for full consumption during those periods. Approximately every four years a longer rainless period was encountered, sometimes extending to 30 days, and it was then necessary to curtail the supply and to pump and chlorinate the water from the old lower reservoirs. Since the Japanese war the increase in population, and the poor state of the service pipe and meters have resulted in an increased consumption. It has been necessary to curtail the supply to certain parts of the town for a few hours per day throughout the year; nevertheless the consumption during 1950 averaged 1,195,342 gallons per day.

About 7 miles of the main pipeline from Matang was relaid during the year and it is anticipated that this work will be completed early in 1952. The new pipes are 15" concrete lined cast iron pipes and though this improvement alone will not supply the steadily increasing demand for water for both private and trade consumption in the town it will give a much increased supply.

During 1951 the second storage reservoir was erected (1,600,000 gallons capacity) and the work of cleansing and maintenance of the old tank was proceeded with.

Surveys were made during the year with a view to finding a completely new source of supply; the only possible sources identified will probably require pumping stations and filtration and purification plant situated at some distance from Kuching.

Much work has been done during the year in the cleansing and replacement of meters and service piping and new mains have been laid in some of the roads. This work is part of a progressive long term programme of which as much as possible is done each year.

Simunjan and Bau.

Gravity water supplies exist at Simunjan and Bau, the water being of reasonable quality but the mains and distribution pipes are in very poor condition resulting in inadequate and unsatisfactory supplies. Financial provision for the rehabilitation of both systems was made in 1951 and orders placed for the necessary pipes.

Sibu.

A new waterworks, which was under construction before the war, was put into partial operation in 1947 and came into

full operation in 1949. This is the only Government waterworks in the Colony where full clarification and purification of an unwholesome supply is carried out; the water is pumped from the Rejang river, treated with alum, passed through mixing and flocculating chambers where some 90% of the dirt is chemically precipitated, through settling tanks where the sediment settles to the bottom, and through gravity filters which remove any remaining dirt and bacteria. As an extra precaution the water is then chlorinated before being pumped to an 80,000 gallon tank 90 feet above the general level of Sibu town to which it gravitates through a 9" main $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long. Due to inadequate voltage of the electric supply the rated output has never been obtained while the consumption has roughly doubled to over 400,000 gallons per day; even with 24 hour pumping the supply is inadequate during evening peak consumption hours. Advantage has been taken of the proposed changeover to A.C. to order larger electric motors and new pump impellers which should increase the output by 60%. The Electricity Supply Company has also undertaken to ensure that adequate voltage is supplied to the new motors by installing an alternator at the waterworks station.

The number of private services increased during the year by 10% to 638 compared with an increase of 23% in 1950. The population served is about 10,000.

Mukah.

Work on construction of the new waterworks at Mukah continued during the year. $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 7" Asbestos Cement pipes, of Italian manufacture, were laid connecting the pumping station to the filter house and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile 5" distribution main to the bazaar and more populous areas of kampongs. Pumping sets of which delivery was promised in January had still not arrived at the end of the year so recourse was made to an old set from the old Sibu waterworks with which a 2 hour emergency supply of raw water was maintained to four distributing points, one in the bazaar and three in the kampongs. Limited storage is provided at these points by 400 gallon tanks. Three large pressure filter shells from the old Sibu waterworks were successfully launched at Sibu, towed to Mukah over 100 miles away including 40 miles of open sea, set in place at new filter station and now await delivery of further equipment from the manufacturers. The final scheme

includes equipment for chemical precipitation, sedimentation, filtration and chlorination with a gravity supply from an overhead pressed steel tank. In view of past experience of corrosion of metal pipes in this area it was decided to use asbestos cement pipes down to the smallest size manufactured. Special pipe joints using no metal are also employed throughout.

Sarikei and Tanjong Mani.

The town of Sarikei was supplied during the dry months by a water barge of 36,000 gallons capacity. The bulk of the water was supplied to the barge by ships of the Sarawak Steamship Company; on the inward trip water from Singapore was supplied and subsequently replaced in Sibu, on the outward trip Sibu water was provided. The Company made no charge either for transport or pumping and the service was very much appreciated. The total provided during the year was 1,600 tons. It is hoped that a scheme for piped water supply to Sarikei and Binatang will be prepared in 1952.

The water barge also supplied water to shipping at Tanjong Mani but since ships normally require water in quantities in excess of 100 tons, and since this amount is outside the capacity of the Company's ships, it is necessary to tow the barge to Sibu for filling. Difficulties in obtaining craft to do the towing and insufficient notice by the ships resulted in the service being unsatisfactory and only 663 tons were delivered compared with 1,950 tons in 1950. If this port is to be developed a powered lighter will be necessary.

Miri.

The supply from the Sarawak Oilfields system to Miri town averaged 35,000 gallons per day which is inadequate for a population 5,000. Ways and means of improving this situation have been examined carefully and it is now considered that a combined Company and Government scheme is probably the best solution.

Government quarters at Tanjong Lobang and Brighton have their own small waterworks. The quantity is more satisfactory but the quality often poor. A new diesel pumping outfit has been ordered.

Bintulu.

The Bintulu water supply consists of $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of 6" Asbestos Cement pipe from a diversion dam in an upland stream to 50,000 gallon elevated steel tank in the town from which distribution takes place.

The water is of very good quality and requires no purification. The service was extended during the year to the new Residential Area. This was the first waterworks in Sarawak using asbestos cement pipes and now even after 22 years these remain satisfactory.

Limbang.

Water supply to Limbang town is from two reservoirs on the same stream but at different levels. The upper reservoir provides water at good pressure but dries up when rainfall is insufficient, the lower one provides water all the year round but the pressure is insufficient to reach all consumers. It is proposed to pump from the lower to the upper reservoir during dry periods so that the supply can be satisfactory at all times. The quality of the water is good and requires no treatment.

The Residency and District Officer's bungalows are at too high a level to obtain water from the town supply and have a small supply of their own from a small dam.

*Gas Supply.**Miri.*

The possibility of gas being supplied to Miri from the oilwells, by Sarawak Oilfields Limited, was investigated during the year and a plan has been submitted for the consideration of the Company.

*Public Works.**General.*

Staff shortages increased during the year with the retirement of the Director; the Department was fortunate in being able to engage a Mechanical Engineer locally. At the end of the year there were 4 vacancies for Engineers and 1 for Assistant Engineer.

Delayed deliveries of engineering materials, equipment and spares from abroad, severe shortage of local building materials and labour due to the increase of private building,

and steeply rising costs due to boom conditions, and the shortage of staff made the efficient operation of the Department extremely difficult during the year.

The staff is to be congratulated on the willingness with which these additional burdens to their already heavy duties were accepted.

Kuching and First Division.

The new Printing Office was completed early in the year and plans made for the conversion of the old building for use by the Municipal Department. Delivery of materials for the new import godown proved very slow indeed and no construction work was possible during the year. A new station was under construction at Lundu and new office and quarters were constructed at Tebakang.

As in previous years the building programme was mainly the construction of housing for Government employees; the following buildings were either completed or under construction during the year:—8 Senior Service bungalows, 8 Senior Service flats, 31 Junior Service quarters, 3 Police Inspectors quarters and 3 Police barracks.

Second Division.

Junior Service quarters were built at Simanggang, Engkilili, Saratok, Sebuyau and Lingga, a new outpatients department was added to the Simanggang hospital and work commenced on an additional ward.

New commercial wharves were constructed at Lingga, Engkilili and Debak.

Senior Service houses at Simanggang were brought up-to-date by the installation of water borne sanitation.

Third Division.

A total of 21 junior service quarters, 8 barracks, one Senior Service bungalow and one police station were either under construction or completed. A Customs checking station was constructed at Tanjong Mani to enable imports as well as exports to be handled by this deepwater port, and permanent concrete navigational aids constructed at selected sites from Rejang to this port.

A new mental ward and laundry drying shed were constructed for the Lau King Howe Hospital, Sibu, while a new T.B. ward and Nurses' Home were under construction.

A new transmitter building was erected for the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Roads and Wharf for a new bulk oil store was completed at Sungei Merah near Sibu so that petroleum products could be more safely stored and handled.

New launch wharves were constructed at Kapit and Sarikei while the most inadequate launch wharf at Sibu was extended as far as site conditions would permit.

Test boring to depths of 100 feet were carried out by Messrs. Ewart and Co., at Sibu to ascertain foundation conditions in connection with proposed development of this port.

Test borings and soundings were also completed at Tanjong Mani so that the possibilities of constructing deep water wharfage could be investigated.

Private building throughout the Division was at an all-time high. Figures are not available of the number of dwelling houses constructed but, in spite of high prices and scarcity of building materials the people showed a commendable desire to translate their high profits on rubber and pepper into good quality houses.

There was a remarkable increase in shophouse construction with 118 permanent reinforced concrete shops, 40 shops of brick ground floor and timber first floor and 57 timber shop buildings at a total estimated cost of \$1,500,000.

Fourth Division.

Of the 77 first class and 20 second class shophouses for which provision is made in the layout of the new Miri bazaar there remain only five second class shops to be completed and these were under construction at the end of the year. Construction of the fish market, retaining wall, and jetty were completed and the vegetable/meat market and open air market were under construction. The Chartered Bank building and the Cinema are the only buildings remaining to complete the bazaar according to plan, a contract has been let for the former and preparations of plans are reported to be in hand for the latter.

The new Government office was opened by His Excellency the Governor in October. This is a modern type single storey building, in reinforced concrete, with a floor area of 13,200 square feet.

Construction of a new hospital was commenced towards the end of the year, a contract being signed for the administration block, general ward, T.B. ward, kitchen and mortuary.

A new Junior Service Housing area was acquired during the year at the foot of Tanjong Lobang hill, two miles from Miri Bazaar. The site is high and near the sea. The construction of six junior service quarters was put in hand.

Police barracks were constructed at Miri, Lutong and Kuala Baram, and one Constabulary building at Miri.

Fifth Division.

A building programme for Customs Department was carried out including the erection of godown, office and quarters at Punang, Lawas, office and quarters at Awat-Awat, Lawas, and Rangau, Limbang, Checking Station at Pendam on the Limbang-Brunei border, two Customs quarters at Kuala Lawas, and extension of Customs Godown, Limbang.

Prison lock-ups were provided at Sundar and Lawas, one Junior Service quarters was replaced at Limbang, new padi store erected at Limbang and a new timber bungalow built for the District Officer, Lawas.

New wharves were constructed at Awat-Awat, Punang, Rangau and Limbang, while major repairs were carried out to the main Customs wharf, Limbang.

XIII

Communications.

(A) WATER.

For the first two months of the year all services between Sarawak Ports and Singapore were badly interrupted by very bad North East monsoon weather and heavy rains.

For the remainder of the year all services were maintained with good regularity.

The total nett tonnage of vessels from overseas both in and out shewed a slight increase over 1950.

Timber vessels calling at Tanjong Mani, Rejang River shewed a slight increase over 1950 but far the greater number called in the second half of the year.

Coastwise traffic remained approximately the same both as regards number of vessels and tonnage, but there was nearly 10% increase in the number of passengers conveyed between Ports.

Government craft. Two new 40 feet River launches were put into service and in September a 150 ton cargo coaster named "Dido" was acquired. The "Dido" found full employment immediately carrying P.W.D. stores and constructional materials, padi and an occasional charter carrying timber to various places for local requirements.

H.M.S. *Dampier* completed a most important Hydrographic survey of some 90 miles of coastline between Tg. Tatau (Bintulu) and Tg. Batu (South of Miri) and extending some 30 miles out to sea. Also a large scale survey was carried out of Kuala Simulajau.

This survey was very long and arduous work and H.M.S. *Dampier* completed a task which has filled a long-felt want on the coast. Some twenty reefs and rock pinnacles were discovered, all of them dangerous to ocean vessels (Deep Draft) and some of them dangerous to coastal vessels (Shallow Draft). The chart when published will be of considerable interest to all and most important to mariners.

Marine Casualties.

Casualties were few, one small coaster being wrecked at Mukah and one ocean vessel grounded at Kuala Rejang. The ocean vessel was refloated after discharge of some 800 tons of cargo without suffering any damage.

Buoys and Lights.

The new electrical equipment was installed at Po Point, Tg. Sirik and Lutong, and acetylene equipment at Tg. Lobang. The new equipment has been landed at Tg. Baram and Tg. Jerijeh and these two lights should be in operation early in 1952.

The new lights are very powerful and apart from a few teething troubles are proving very satisfactory.

A vessel approaching Po Point in heavy rain reported picking up the head-land (430 ft.) on her radar at 10 miles and Po Point light at 8 miles distant.

Under very good conditions of visibility the loom of Po Point light has been seen from Tg. Datu (60 miles) and the loom of Tg. Serik light has been seen at 85 miles.

A number of concrete piles with top marks have been erected on the river banks between Kuala Rejang and Tg. Mani for the guidance of timber vessels.

(B) AIR AND ROADS.*Kuching.*

The International Airport at Kuching is the designated airport of entry and departure for international air traffic. Construction of this Airport was commenced during 1948, and had progressed sufficiently by September, 1950, for schedule and itinerant traffic to use it as from that date.

The Airport provides an all-weather asphalt macadam surfaced runway 1,500 yards long and 50 yards wide. There are no approach obstructions to this runway which offers possibilities for extension to over 2,000 yards basic length. Consolidated grass-surfaced areas extending to 175 feet on each side and 200 feet at each end of the runway are in an advanced stage of construction and will, when complete, provide a strip of dimensions appropriate to the runway basic length. An asphalt macadam taxiway to an apron of similar

construction is provided adjacent to the terminal building. The building comprises the Control Tower, Signals and Meteorological departments, Waiting and Refreshment room, Office, Customs, Immigration and Health accommodation.

During the year under review, traffic requirements over the route Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore again necessitated an increase in Malayan Airways Limited schedule operations; and during May, 1951, an additional weekly schedule was instituted, thereby establishing four schedules weekly through Kuching, Singapore-Sandakan-Singapore. A total of 387 landings were effected by Malayan Airways Ltd., during 1951. Garuda Indonesian Airways effected 4 schedule landings; and landings by Military and private aircraft made up the total of 463. Malayan Airways landed 1,455 passengers at Kuching, up-lifted 1,613 and carried 2,611 in transit.

An analysis of the various types of aircraft which operated into Kuching during 1951 indicates a preponderance of DC3 movements which, as in the case of the preceding year, was due chiefly to Malayan Airways Ltd. utilization of this type of machine. Garuda Indonesian Airways operating their Djakarta-Manila-Djakarta service contributed heavier machines with their "Convair" aircraft but on no occasion was the conservative bearing capacity of 30,000 lbs. per single isolated wheel load approached in runway utilization. In addition to a capacity for handling heavier category aircraft such as those operating over trunk routes Kuching Airport amply justifies the "International Airport" designation. In this direction it is of particular interest to note that on 26th January, 1951, the World Health Organisation recognized Kuching as an "Authorized Aerodrome" and confirmed the Airport as a "Sanitary Aerodrome" and "as constituting a local area".

Supervision of Air Traffic Control and development and operation of Navigational, Approach and Landing facilities covering Sarawak territory and Kuching Airport was undertaken on a three-year contractual basis by International Aeradio Ltd. Development commenced during the later part of 1949, and despite unavoidable delays in manufacture and shipment of radio equipment Kuching Airport commenced provision of full-scale facilities during December, 1949. These comprised Approach and Aerodrome Control facilities on two VHF and one HF radio-telephone channels, VHF

Direction-Finding for homing aircraft to the Airport, one W/T channel guarding the aircraft "enroute" communication frequency, and Point-to-Point communications with Singapore and North Borneo. During July, 1950, a new radio-beacon replaced the hand-keyed equipment originally put into service as an Approach and Let-down and also a Route Navigational facility; and by May of the year under review all specified facilities were being operated with newly delivered equipment. The position by this time was such that Kuching was able to provide an additional "enroute" radio-telephone facility, at the same time assuming responsibility for the collection of airmove signals traffic from the North Borneo airports for onward transmission to the Flight Information Centre, Singapore. By this means Kuching was able to assist in reducing signals delays from hours to a matter of minutes, and by assisting the Flight Information Centre to maintain current information on progress of flights, contributed extensively to the safety of air navigation over the Borneo routes generally.

Sibu.

Work on the rehabilitation of the old airfield at Sibu was commenced during the year and by the end of the year the runway was completed and temporary buildings erected while the construction of the parking apron was under way. It was decided that the gravel surface of the runway should be covered with grass so as to minimize danger from flying stones, dust and erosion; accordingly a 1" layer of top soil was spread over the whole area. Grass proved most reluctant to grow and at the end of the year the runway was not yet fit to take aircraft. It is anticipated that the necessary radio aids to navigation will be installed by May, 1952, by which time the grass is expected to be satisfactory. The runway is 1,200 yards long by 50 yards wide.

It is anticipated that Malayan Airways will use this airfield on scheduled flights.

Miri.

The grass surfaced landing ground at Lutong near Miri has been maintained by the Sarawak Oilfields Limited who operate for their own private use—one amphibian and one land aircraft.

*Roads.**(a) General.*

The main method of transportation in Sarawak, both for passengers and freight is by inland water and coastal routes. Kuching, Sibü, Sarikei and Miri have a small network of roads with earth roads branching to outlying agricultural, rubber and forest districts but there are no connecting trunk roads.

There is a road from Kuching to Serian, 40 miles long, including 15 miles of bitumen macadam surface, 19 miles of rough waterbound macadam, and 6 miles of earth road.

Generally speaking road construction and maintenance costs continued to be high during the year. Traffic continued to increase as the boom in pepper and rubber showed little abatement with consequent serious deterioration to metalled and earth roads. Wages for unskilled labour remained high throughout the year. A road reconstruction scheme was drawn up during 1951, and finance approved, for the reconstruction of all important metalled and earth roads to bitumen macadam surfaced standard. To carry out this scheme properly, equipment, now a long delivery, had to be ordered, surveys made, and detailed specifications drawn up. As a result major reconstruction works are unlikely to begin before the end of 1952.

The following is an approximate census of road mileage in Sarawak :—

(i) All weather, bitumen or concrete surfaced roads	...	...	75 miles
(ii) Metalled roads	...	...	82 ..
(iii) Earth roads suitable in dry weather for light vehicles	...	...	118 ..
(iv) Earth paths, suitable for jeeps in dry weather	...	...	195 ..

(b) Kuching Municipal Roads.

Kuching with its 31 miles of bitumen surfaced and metalled roads the largest network in the country. With the heavy increase in traffic upkeep of the metalled roads to good standard proved difficult, particularly during the latter part of the year. Average maintenance expenditure on road

surfaces was \$108 per mile per month. Maintenance of verges and drains is carried out by the Municipal Department.

The largest work undertaken during the year was the resurfacing of Main Bazaar. This project consisted of scarifying and regrading the existing 10,000 square yards of surface, after which a 2" coat of premixed bitumen macadam was laid. The bitumen and stone were mixed at the 7th Mile Central Mixing Plant, set up in 1950, and which continued working during 1951. By working 2 shifts until 10 p.m. daily, the whole of this work was completed in 22 days with a minimum dislocation to traffic. The river edge of the bazaar was piled at 12" centres, and provided with a 6' x 6" concrete haunch.

Petanak Road, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length was resurfaced by the same method.

A 2-year plan to strengthen Central Road was started on during 1951. The sides which are subject to heavy erosion being built up with a masonry retaining wall. Half the whole work was completed.

Other works of minor nature included replacement of bilian box culverts with R.C. pipes, and surfacing of private roads and driveways.

(c) Kuching District.

District roads consist of approximately 40 miles of road mostly metalled surfaced. Maintenance costs were high during 1951, as daily labour wages stayed up. Verge and drain maintenance alone by contract labour is now costing approximately \$100 per mile per month.

Three new roads were constructed during the year. The major of these now gives good access to Kuching Airport from 6th mile Penrissen Road. This new road is $\frac{3}{4}$ mile in length, and was built to Class I standards. Road width is 20'. Jungle clearing and earthworks were done departmentally using earthmoving equipment. Base and premix bitumen surface course construction were done by contract labour as were 4 R.C. pipe culverts and one R.C. slab bridge. Work commenced in mid February, and the road was completed and opened to public traffic on 1st September. The new road brings the Kuching Airport $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles nearer to Kuching, the old access having been a rough construction track from 7th Mile Bazaar.

A new secondary road was cut in from 2½ mile Rock Road to open up a new Government Housing Estate. This road is ¾ mile long, 15' wide, with a 6" rubble base and a 2" grouted bitumen macadam surface course. A further ½ mile extension of this road is planned for 1952, and when finished the whole road will give access to 20 first class house sites.

Another new secondary road was cut in from 3rd mile Pending Road down to the Sungei Tabuan. Primary purpose of this road is to give access to the new Government sponsored Henghua Co-operative Fishing Village, so that fish can be brought into Kuching Markets speedily and economically. In addition the new road will serve travellers to Kuching from Sungei Kuap. The road is 15 feet wide, with 6' verges, and is 1,200 yards in length. At present the surface is waterbound macadam on a rubble and pitched stone base course. Two R.C. pipe culverts and one timber bridge had to be built.

Reconstruction of Batu Kawa Road continued from 1950 when 1½ miles had been completed. The remaining 3½ miles, and one timber bridge were completed by the end of April. With proper maintenance this waterbound macadam road continued to give good service throughout the remainder of the year.

Another Government Junior Service Housing Scheme was prepared at 2nd Mile Rock Road. The area is low lying for the most part and considerable quantities of filling material had to be brought in from a nearby earth pit. 41 sites were prepared during 1951, involving carting approximately 6,000 cu. yards of filling, and all of which had to be excavated and spread by hand. 1,300 lin. yards of roadway, and 8 R.C. pipe culverts were constructed.

Using premixed bitumen macadam from the Central mixing plant at 7th Mile, Wireless compound road was surfaced in April.

The 7th Mile Quarry, which is the only present source of stone for Kuching and District produced 19,000 cu. yards of crushed and 12,000 cu. yards of uncrushed stone during the year. The present quarry site, once a large hill has only about another 12 months' life, after which another hill about ½ mile away will be exploited. The present crushing plant will not be moved but plans for its modernization are in hand.

Other works of a minor nature included repairs and re-decking to timber bridges, and replacement of damaged culverts by R.C. pipes.

(d) First Division Roads.

These consist of the 40 mile trunk road to Serian, and the 26 miles of the Upper Sarawak network in Bau District.

30 miles of the Serian Road are being surfaced with bitumen macadam under Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No. D1076, the remaining 10 miles having been surfaced before the war. Also included in this scheme is the strengthening and reconstruction of 2 major and 13 minor bridges to take 20 ton loads. Work completed to date is 5 miles of surfacing, 1 major and 7 minor bridges.

Of this 3 miles of surfacing 1 mile of metalling and 3 bridges were completed in 1951. A contract for surfacing 6 miles from 12th to 18th was cancelled in February after only one mile had been completed. The standard of work had proved unsatisfactory, and stone from 18th mile began to run out. Surfacing work did not recommence until October due to the lack of an air compressor and 2 further miles were completed by the end of the year.

Maintenance of this trunk road was carried out during the year under both physical and economic difficulties. Labour was scarce and expensive, on account of pepper boom, and additional financial aid had to be granted before the end of the year. An average of \$123 per mile per month was expended, but even this failed to keep pace with the deterioration caused by bad weather and increasingly heavy and more numerous traffic.

In Bau District, the main Batu Kitang Road, closed at the end of 1950, remained closed during 1951. This road has a high priority under the Road Reconstruction Programme. The 4½ mile Bau-Buso Road was reconstructed and strengthened with limestone rubble and mine tailings as a surface. This now provides a good link with the river, which is the main means of communication with Kuching. Most maintenance attention was given to the 6 mile long Krokong Road, which provides a trade link with Indonesian Borneo.

In Serian District, the Tebakang Track, built in 1948 with Colonial Development and Welfare Funds was maintained, and was used by light vehicles in the dry season.

(e) *Second Division.*

There was no new road construction carried out in the Second Division. Survey work on the proposed road to Simanggang from Serian was seriously hampered by lack of labour.

(f) *Third Division.*

Road communications throughout the Division continued to be most unsatisfactory, except between Mukah and Oya where the sandy nature of the terrain favours road maintenance; elsewhere the combination of swamp, clay, lack of stone and increased traffic made roads maintenance very difficult; fortunately the rainy season was not so wet as usual and more funds were forthcoming so it was found possible to keep open the Sibu roads system. Lower Rejang did not fare so well financially and at the close of the year Repok Road was closed to traffic.

A new gravel source was located and opened at Leba-an 10 miles down-river from Sibu and proved invaluable at the beginning of the year in rehabilitating the Sibu roads system which was then in a state of collapse. However, the quality was never good and towards the end of the year a drop in the price of commercial gravel and plentiful supplies enabled Leba-an to be closed.

An energetic search for stone in the Sibu district was carried out during the year under the guidance of the Geological Survey Department whose invaluable assistance was much appreciated. Much more stone than anticipated was discovered in various places but at the end of the year indications were that while a small quarry might be a possibility at Aup a suitable site for a large quarry sufficient to carry out the proposed roads reconstruction programme was not probable. However, the Geological Department had meantime discovered large quantities of excellent granite at the mouth of the Batang Lupar in the Second Division from which stone could be made available in the Third Division although at a much higher price than if stone had been available locally in quantity. It is proposed to examine Bukit Peninjau in the Sarikei area in 1952 with a view to ascertaining its suitability for a quarry.

(g) *Fourth Division.*

The completion of tarmac surfacing to roads in bazaar

area Miri was delayed due to difficulties in obtaining stones and bitumen and to shortage of labour but at the end of the year only China Street, Kingsway and River Road remained to be done.

Further improvements were made to Tanjong Lobang Road and Luak Hill which are on the route to the Oil Company's operational area of Bulak Satap and take very heavy traffic sometimes up to 20 tons. The company completed the remaining 25 miles to Bulak Satap.

With the co-operation of the local populations three miles of the abandoned Riam Road were put in order, otherwise shortage of labour would have precluded this work being carried out.

An arrangement was made with the Oil Company for Government to take over the maintenance of $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles of Company Open Roads for the second half of the year at an agreed rate of \$2,500 per mile, but rising costs and scarcity of labour made the arrangement unfavourable to Government and it is unlikely to be continued in its present form.

(h) Fifth Division.

In the Limbang area of the 5th Division a road roller was supplied and tarmac surfacing of bazaar road carried out for the first time. Available stone is of poor quality and the roads fit only for light traffic. Repairs were carried out on the Pandaruan Road as far as the 7th Mile and this stretch is now in better condition than ever before.

Vehicles and Equipment.

During the year a new Air Compressor was installed at the 7th Mile Quarry and new compressed air lines laid to the quarry. Three Caterpillar Tractors, 2 D7s and 1 D4, were received during the year under the Marshall Air Programme. Two D7s were put to work on the airport extension. The D4 was sent to Sibü for work on the new airstrip there.

The department installed a new water pumping plant at the Leper Settlement and installed a lighting plant at the airport as well as four diesel-driven generators for Air Control.

During the year maintenance of plant has been carried out on road and earth moving equipment but repairs of Caterpillar tractors have been seriously held up because of the

difficulty in obtaining the necessary spare parts, many of which have been on order for over a year.

The ex-Japanese landing craft "Letta" had an extensive overhaul during the year which included, in addition to repairs to the hull plating, a reconditioned Ruston engine. This craft has proved of great value in transporting equipment and stores.

The outboard Motor Pool operated throughout the year and three new motors were added. Many motors are now getting beyond economical repairs and an extensive programme of replacement is in progress. The accounting side of the Pool proved unnecessarily cumbersome and a very much simplified system is to be introduced in 1952.

During the year 12 new Landrovers were delivered and were distributed throughout the Colony, thus allowing an equivalent number of worn out ex-Army jeeps to be withdrawn from service. The intention to replace 5 of the ex-Army tip trucks was not carried out owing to the non arrival of the new vehicles by the end of the year. Maintenance on these vehicles has been costly. The situation will be greatly improved in 1952 when the new trucks arrive. Seven additional trucks are expected during the first half of 1952.

A padi drying plant was erected at the Government Padi Mill.

The Bus Service, Across River, was operated by this department during the year and covered a total of 19,550 miles.

(C) POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

There were thirty-seven Post Offices operating at the beginning of 1951. In the latter part of the year the offices at Matu and Meluan had to be closed owing to staff shortage.

Mail.

Regular external mail services with Singapore were maintained by sea once a week, and by air four times a week in each direction.

On internal services air mail via Labuan was used between Kuching and the Third and Fourth Divisions.

Parcels.

11,100 parcels were despatched and 28,100 received.

External Money Orders.

Money Orders were sent and received to the following values:—

		<i>Sent</i>	<i>Received</i>
Malaya	...	\$ 76,450	\$37,140
India	...	146,240	420
United Kingdom	...	9,060	2,550
North Borneo	...	10,800	13,100

Telegraphs.

The amount of traffic is indicated by the following records of numbers of words:—

Foreign Traffic

		<i>Sent</i>	<i>Received</i>
1950	...	760,338 words	730,298 words
1951	...	866,140 ,,	901,680 ,,

Internal Traffic

		<i>Government</i>	<i>Private</i>
1950	...	2,076,528 words	854,464 words
1951	...	1,589,250 ,,	1,242,000 ,,

Savings Bank.

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank at the end of 1951 was 4,897, an increase of 1,512 during the year.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1951 was \$3,001,548.

Total deposits were \$2,243,055 and withdrawals \$585,173.

A special interest rate of 5% per annum was applied for one year deposits made during the first six months of 1951 provided no withdrawals were made. This had the beneficial effect of encouraging deposits, which was of assistance in fighting inflation in general living costs.

Telephones.

The position in regard to Telephones remained static.

The 400 line magneto exchange in Kuching, which was installed in 1925, continued to give service.

A new Automatic Exchange with 800 lines is planned for 1952.

The first phase in opening a country wide Telephone Service by use of V.H.F. Radio is also planned for 1952.

XIV

Control and Development of Lands.

Organisation.

In a country such as Sarawak where agricultural small holdings predominate and where the small holders are to a great extent illiterate, it is important that the tenure to the land must be simple to understand, and be derived from some recognised authority. The tenure must also be secure and be supported by a reliable official record of events which is at all times under capable technical scrutiny and at the same time easily accessible to the public for day to day transactions.

One department is responsible for the alienation of vacant Crown Land to settlers, the registration of title to land, the settlement and registration of native claims to customary rights in land, the cadastral survey on which all title registration is based, and the collection of Land Revenue. The organisation by which the Department is able to carry out its functions has remained the same as in previous years; the various functions are de-centralised as much as is possible and compatible with the need for adequate supervision. The department is divided into four main Land and Survey Offices, situated at the Divisional Administrative Headquarters, Kuching, Simanggang, Sibu and Miri. The latter office is also responsible for Land Affairs in the 5th Division as well as the 4th Division.

From the main offices, which are staffed by the department, the organisation goes down through general administrative channels to the smallest Government sub-district office where transactions in registered land can be drawn up on standard forms, signed and attested and then sent to the Land Registry at Divisional Headquarters. Documents are returned direct after registration. The following, however, receive the attention of the District Officer or Native Officer before being passed to the Land Office for final action, even if initial action has been instituted by the Land Department or some other Department.

- (a) Application for title to vacant Crown Land (except in Divisional Headquarters).
- (b) Development of Bazaar, Residential and Agricultural Schemes.

- (c) Reservations of land for Native Communal use or for Government purposes.
 (d) Disposition of landed property under the Administration of Estates Ordinance.

All surveys and field investigations necessary to define titles and establish claims to land are, however, the responsibility of the Land Office and are carried out by departmental travelling field staff operating under the control of the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys in each Division.

Technical and Administrative liaison is thus ensured, and the District Officer has opportunity to supervise the settlement of Crown Lands and the development of his district. Final approval for issue of title after survey is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Lands and Surveys for the Division to whom the application is sent if accepted by the District Officer.

REVIEW OF CURRENT LAND DISPOSITIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Applications for new land.

Applications for Crown Land during the year amounted to a total of 35,952 acres from 11,188 applicants, as compared with 32,669 acres from 6,399 applicants in 1950.

The 1951 applications are classified as follows:—

<i>Purpose.</i>	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>No. of Applications.</i>
Sago	7,062	1,068
Padi	6,319	1,528
Rubber	8,603	2,323
Coconut	3,720	748
Pepper	42,150	3,545
Ordinary Agricultural	2,314	528
Coffee	14	8
Fruit	2,705	585
Vegetable	1,229	366
Building	160	331
Miscellaneous	138	104
Cattle Grazing	1,538	54
Total	35,952	11,188

†The low average area per application occurs mainly in the Second Division—comparative figures for pepper in the Divisions are:—Average area per application First Division $\frac{1}{4}$ acre, Second Division $\frac{1}{4}$ acre, Third, Fourth and Fifth Divisions 3 acres.

Applications dealt with.

At the beginning of the year there were 5,117 applications for land outstanding from the previous year and some 11,188 new applications were received during the year 1951.

Applications dealt with amounted to 9,626 and were disposed of as follows:—

(a) Surveyed	...	...	8,292
(b) Already surveyed	...	...	396
(c) Cancelled, etc.	...	...	995
(d) Title without survey	...	...	138

This left arrears of 6,679 applications not dealt with at the end of the year, an increase in arrears of this work of 1,562.

The disposal of 9,626 applications for land during 1951 as compared with 5,965 in 1950 represents a considerable increase of effort on the part of the Department which, in a normal year, would have gone a long way to wiping out arrears. However, the large increase in the number of applications for land received has made the position much worse. The main increases in the demand for land in 1951 over that in 1950 are Sago 379, Padi 140, Rubber 1,052, Pepper 2,461, a total of 4,032 out of the general increase of 5,789. Nearly half the increase is due to the demand for pepper land, in spite of the decision made early in the year to not alienate any further *new* land for pepper growing. The total area applied for in 1951 for this purpose is, however, comparatively small (2,150 acres) and represents mainly applications for old abandoned pepper land, and for those gardens planted up before 30th April, 1951, in anticipation of a title being granted. (Many persons planting after 30th April, 1951, which was the date notified in the promulgated decision, have been prosecuted for illegal occupation of Crown Land, especially in the case of non-natives).

Transactions in alienated land.

Some 8,501 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:—

Transfers	..	...	...	4,502
Charges	...	...	...	784
Release of Charges	...	...	...	730
Sub-leases	...	...	...	45
Surrenders to the Crown	...	...	...	198

Affidavits	...	...	58
Letters of Administration	...	...	381
Caveats	...	...	244
Miscellaneous (i.e. Deeds of Exchange, etc.)	...	...	748
Powers of Attorney or Revocation	...	...	134
Transmission by Probate in case of small estates	...	...	677

Issue of titles for Crown Land.

Some 4,349 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1951, 114,252.

Miscellaneous Surveys and Inspections.

Requests for subdivision of alienated land totalled 483, while miscellaneous inspections of land were 844.

LAND CLASSIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT.

Mixed Zones and Native Areas.

Provision is made in the Land (Classification) Ordinance for the declaration of Mixed Zone Land and Native Area Land in order to control non-native colonisation, and also protect native interests in land. During the year the following areas were constituted :—

FIRST DIVISION.

Mixed Zones.

Approximately 720 acres on the true right bank of Sungai Samarahan between Sungai Baharu and Sungai Murut.

Approximately 290 acres on the southern boundary of the Nissa Shokai Estate at Samarahan.

Approximately 1,000 acres at Sungai Empila, Samarahan.

Native Areas.

Approximately 14,000 acres situated to the north of the Simanggang Road between the 11th and 20th Miles.

Approximately 5,500 acres taking in the cape formed by the Sarawak and Santubong Rivers and stretching to Kampong Samaring.

Approximately 2.25 acres at Kampong Sungai Bedil Kechil, across river from Kuching.

General.

The present classification of the First Division is to be reviewed in 1952 with a view to providing (a) certain Native Areas and (b) small Mixed Zones.

SECOND DIVISION.

Mixed Zones.

Nil.

Native Areas.

An area of approximately 4,028 acres of the coastal belt between Triso Darat and Maludam.

THIRD DIVISION.

Mixed Zones.

Approximately 2,000 acres at Bawang Assan in the Sibul district.

Two small parcels at Leba'an and Ulu Balingian.

Native Areas.

Three small areas totalling approximately 2 acres.

FOURTH AND FIFTH DIVISIONS.

Mixed Zones.

Three areas totalling approximately 5,432 acres in the Bintulu District.

An area of approximately 1,000 acres at Luak, Miri.

An area of approximately 260 acres at Puyut, Baram.

An area of approximately 435 acres at Ukong in the Limbang District.

Native Areas.

Two areas in the Bintulu District totalling 35,500 acres.

The total areas of each category in the Colony are now approximately :—

Mixed Zones where both natives and non-natives hold land, approximately 4,474 square miles.

Native Areas where only natives can hold land, approximately 272 square miles.

The balance of the area of Sarawak i.e. 42,254 square miles is Interior Area and Native Customary Land, where,

apart from mining and forestry undertakings, the only occupied land is that consisting of farming and other native lands, generally lying away from the main centres of trade and plantation industry. Only general administrative control is exercised over these farming lands.

The administration during the year of the Land (Classification) Ordinance has caused confusion. The complex effects of this legislation when applied to the existing structure of Land Administration were not fully realised by either departmental or legal officers, and it is now apparent that it would have been wiser to limit the ordinance to the simple provisions required to give statutory authority to the establishment of Mixed Zones and Native Areas, rather than attempt to define native customary land *vis-a-vis* general classification by areas. Amending legislation will be placed before the Council Negri; and it is hoped that this will considerably simplify the situation and correct actual faults which occur in the existing ordinance.

Errors have occurred which have resulted in the validity of certain transactions and titles being open to question, and it will be necessary to present a validating bill to Council Negri at the first opportunity.

Settlement Operations.

Owing to the prosperity in the rubber and pepper industries throughout the last two years, the incidence of illegal occupation of native farming lands by non-natives has greatly diminished. The progress of the re-settlement schemes referred to in the report for 1950 will, it is hoped, prevent a recurrence of the squatter problem which was mainly a legacy from the days of enemy occupation. The policy is, and always has been, that every small holder agriculturist shall have secure title to his land on a defined lease for a considerable term of years. In the case of non-natives this can of course only take place in previously selected areas where natives interests do not conflict, or can be extinguished by compensation without reducing the area required by the native communities below that required for present needs and future expansion.

The present position of the large re-settlement scheme in the Lower Rejang delta on which progress was made during the year is as follows:—

Final decisions have been made regarding the classific-

ation into Mixed Zones and Native Areas, and approved by the Governor in Council. Formal gazetting will take place in 1952. All lots in the proposed Mixed Zones have been surveyed ready for issue of title and similar operations are in progress in the proposed Native Areas. The amount paid out as compensation for the extinction of native customary rights in the proposed Mixed Zones amounted to \$10,533 during the year.

This Scheme demanded a considerable amount of survey work and the effort devoted during the year to this one project entailed 1856 miles of prismatic compass lot boundary surveys and 756 miles of the odolite traverses to control the same. The cadastral mapping completed during the year from these surveys amounted to 74 30 inch \times 30 inch charts on a scale of 4 chains to an inch and 8 on a scale of 16 chains to an inch.

Other than the above there have been no schemes for opening up of land on a large scale. Most other alienation was piecemeal, but represented a considerable area in the aggregate.

Operations under the Land Settlement Ordinance.

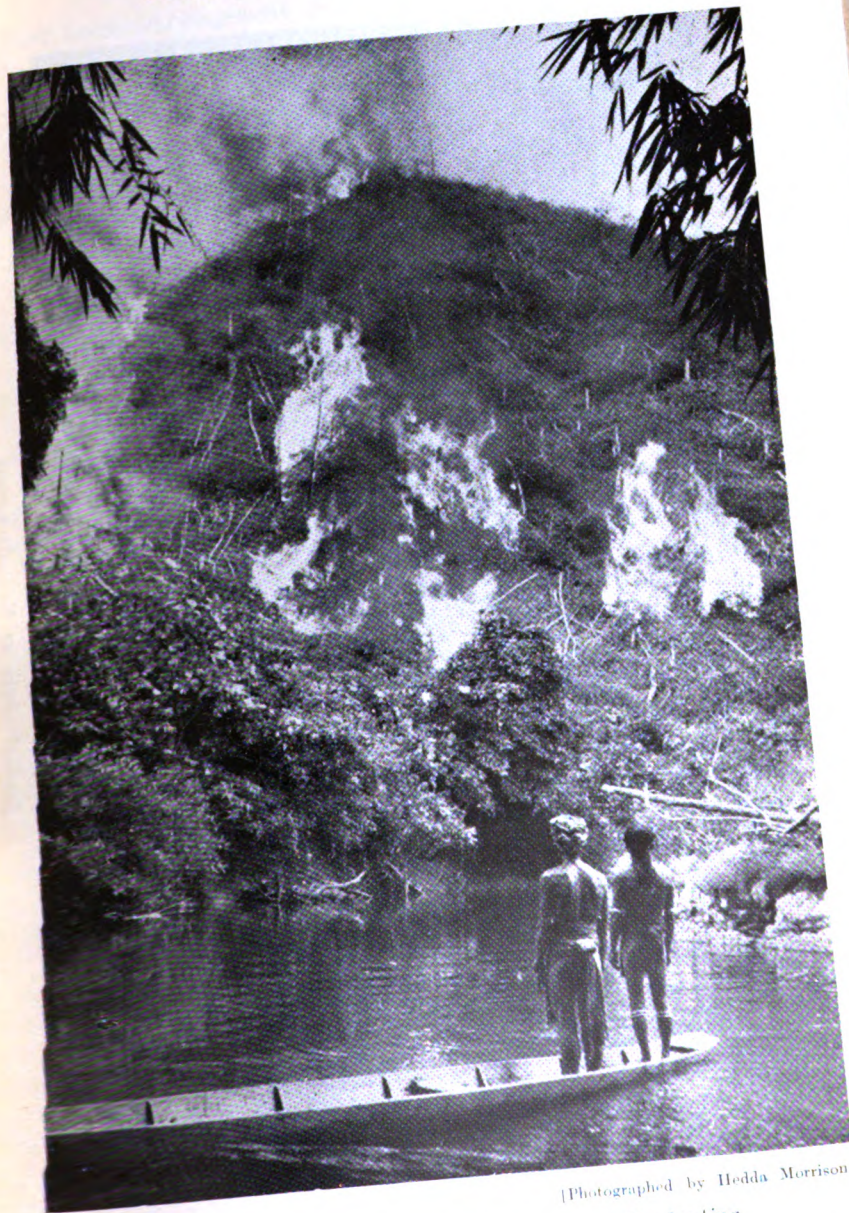
The preceding paragraphs refer to settlement in the sense of opening up lands for agricultural development by putting small holders on the land, with documentary title, either under the Land Ordinance or the Land Settlement Ordinance.

Deliberate operations under the Land Settlement Ordinance for the settlement of the legal and equitable claims of people already on the land, or having interests therein, took place in 1951 over the following areas :—

Land District—Kuching Central.

<i>Block No.</i>	<i>No. of Lots.</i>	<i>Area (acres).</i>
46	63	572
59	43	1216
45	37	400
56	35	59
57	159	1044
58	88	848
70	47	1442
71	118	1047
82	132	937
83	147	924
Total	869	8489

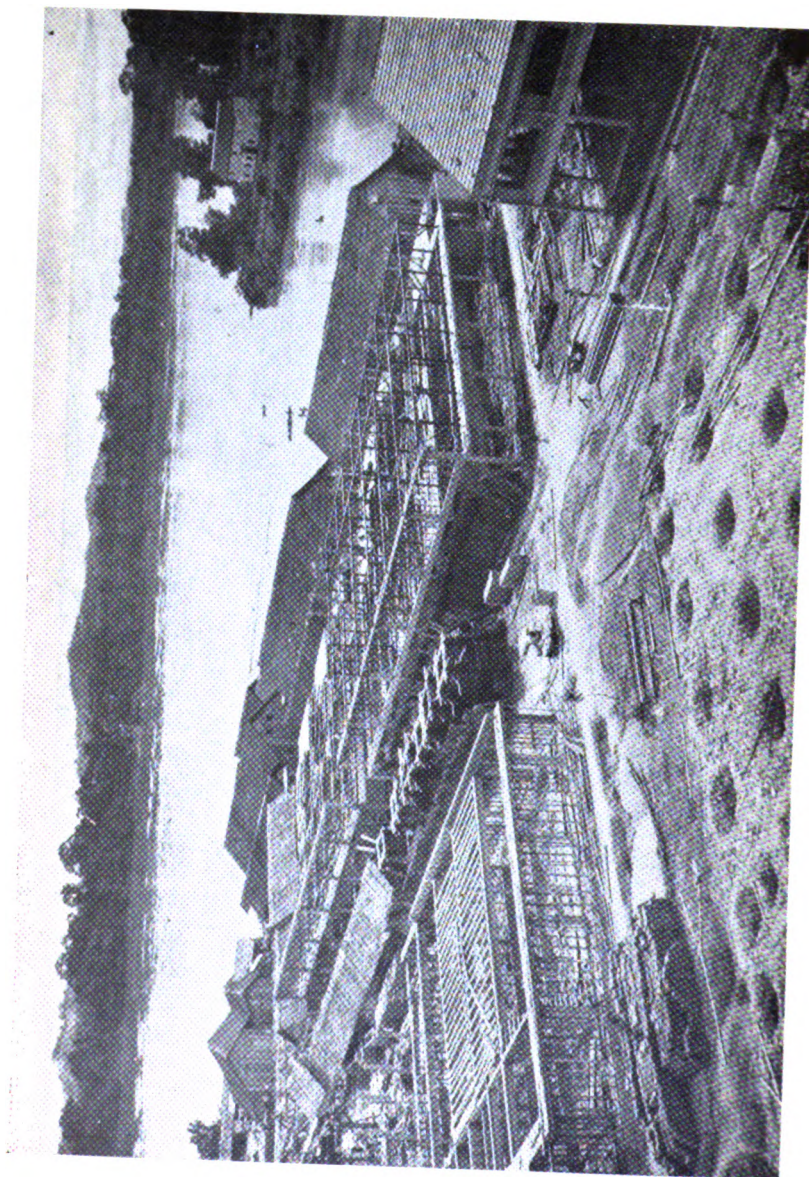
SARAWAK ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.



[Photographed by Hedda Morrison.

Sea Dayaks burning hillside prior to padi planting.

SARAWAK ANNUAL REPORT, 1951.



[Photographed by Hedda Morrison.]

Reconstruction of Kanowit bazaar.

Rural Land Development.

Since the development of rural areas depends so much on the small holder, it is inevitable that agricultural pursuits are influenced, especially in regard to cash crops, by the current prices for agricultural products, cultivators seek land to plant the crop with the greatest return. This is well illustrated by the demand for land for pepper growing referred to earlier. Efforts to settle small holders on selected land for the purpose of mixed farming, or the direct production of foodstuffs, often end in failure for this reason. The exceptions to this are the very large native communities, especially in the interior, who habitually attempt to grow all their own rice requirements, as well as the currently favoured cash crop, but who, in doing so, use up far more land by customary usage than would be required using a better system of farming. It is inevitable, therefore, that rural development has been to a great extent haphazard in the past, even though the actual alienation of the land is controlled. When there has been a slump in any particular commodity the result has been the abandonment of large areas of small holdings devoted to such crops, in the hope of acquiring fresh land for something else; striking examples are the vast areas of abandoned pepper land at Engkilili and elsewhere. The Land Office is then faced with the task of re-entry and re-possession of the land for non-payment of rent or non-cultivation both of which are cumbrous legal processes, and which in the end, achieve nothing as new tenants cannot be found for the deteriorated land. (It should be noted that it is now the policy of the department to re-enter on land for non-payment of rent only as a last resort after other methods have failed.)

The Natural Resources Ordinance which was enacted in 1949, however, provides very wide powers to control the development and use of land without upsetting the tenure thereof. This encourages stability in agricultural economy. The Natural Resources Board, appointed under the Ordinance, which consists of the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Director of Agriculture, the Director of Lands and Surveys, the Conservator of Forests, and the Director of Geological Surveys as official members, assisted by several non-official members appointed by the Governor, is empowered to issue orders for improvements to be carried out by the small holder with a

view to conserving the fertility of the soil, and considerable success has already been achieved. If given in time, the orders are cheerfully obeyed and the particular garden never reaches a stage of deterioration of the soil. This means that, should the particular crop become unattractive in the market, complete abandonment of the land need not occur. Pepper culture affords the best example of this, and rubber, although a more permanent crop, has possibilities of improvement.

The Agricultural Department is taking vigorous action to improve rural development through the control afforded by the powers of the Natural Resources Board. Consideration is now being given to the introduction of wet padi farming rules to certain selected areas in order to intensify and improve the production of rice, and make full use of the Colony's best land, again without necessarily upsetting the tenure. Another important function of the Board is to protect, and control the use of, the natural resources of Sarawak which are as yet unaffected by land occupation.

Bazaar and Town Development.

At the end of the war in 1945 there were 10 bazaars which had been wholly or partially destroyed by military operations in Sarawak and to these can be added another 4 destroyed accidentally by fire.

New and improved layouts have been designed to replace all the old ones and land office action is complete on all except one, Limbang, which presented complications regarding siting and involves the removal and compensation of a great number of villagers. Action is in hand on this and it is hoped to complete the project during the year 1952.

Rebuilding is complete in 6 of these bazaars using improved materials of a more permanent nature. Until this was done trade was carried on in temporary structures.

In addition, some 34 layouts were made for new bazaars, and replacing old and insanitary bazaars.

Alienation of town and bazaar lots is mostly by public auction. The following sales took place in 1951 :—

	<i>Number sold.</i>	<i>Amount realised.</i>
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade I	23	\$117,850†
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade II	40	119,376
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade III	18	9,934
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade IV	18	7,722
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	99	\$254,882
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Other town lots Grade I	1	\$3,350
(mainly residential)		
Other town lots Grade II	8	2,756
(mainly residential)		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	9	\$6,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>

†Includes a number of shop lots in Sibu which reached the record figure of \$1,000 per foot frontage.

SURVEYS AND MAPPING.

Cadastral Surveys.

The field work for the year 1951 comprised in the alienation of new land, reservation of land, revision surveys, mutations of title, and inspections, etc., consisted of the following totals in all categories of land :—

Country Lands.

Prismatic compass boundary surveys (2,862 miles) 8,140 lots @ \$19.07 per lot.

Theodolite control traverses 331 miles @ \$146.50 per mile.

Town Lands.

Theodolite survey of lots 3,276 chains 275 lots @ \$3.29 per chain and \$39.20 per lot.

Theodolite survey queries, etc., 1,114 chains @ \$2.07 per chain.

Mining licences, etc., 1 lot of approx. 5 square miles costing \$262.

Miscellaneous cadastral surveys and inspections without survey 3,465 lots @ 5.31 per lot.

The cadastral charting on record sheets for the year consisted of the following :—

No. of Theodolite Traverses : Computed for charting 111, Charted, 54.

New Lots charted : 7,727.

Revision charting : 4,290 lots charted.

The arrears of current field work have already been mentioned. Arrears of office work at the end of the year amounted to :—

(a) Theodolite traverses awaiting action :—

For computation	...	...	50
For charting	...	...	99

(b) Lots awaiting charting ... 4,084

The above represents the arrears of normal current work and no progress has been made in appreciably reducing these arrears owing to the increase in current work received. In addition there is the practically untouched work necessary to register claims to land at present occupied by natives without documentary title. (Any non-natives on land without title are included in the recorded arrears of current work).

It is extremely important that the Cadastral Survey be brought up to date as soon as possible, including the 20,000 unsurveyed lots in the Second Division.

Topographical Surveys.

The topographic work carried out during the year by Sarawak resources is tabulated below :—

River Surveys	...	46 miles @ \$24.60 per mile
Compass Traverses	...	52 miles @ \$63.52 per mile
Levelling	...	25 miles @ \$115.25 per mile.

This is generally undertaken as being incidental to other work, or as an interim measure pending plotting of the air photography.

In April, 1951, an expedition to the unexplored country between the Rejang and Baram river systems known vaguely as the Usum Apau was made by the Curator of the Museum and the Director of Lands and Surveys. The route traversed lay entirely in dense forest, and consisted of 60 miles on foot and 26 miles by canoe (constructed by the expedition party when it reached favourable water leading to the Rejang River system). Astronomical observations for latitude and longitude were made at eight points on the route, and much topographical, geological, zoological information was obtained and recorded.

The air photography completed by the Royal Air Force during the year amounted to 31,840 square miles consisting of 24,590 square miles of new coverage and 7,250 square miles of revision. The total area of Sarawak covered by aerial photographs at the end of 1951 was 33,200 square miles i.e. 70%.

Topographical Mapping.

The deliberate mapping as planned, on a regular sheet series from the aerial photography, has not progressed as expected. This is due to the inadequacy of staff and funds to provide topographical ground control and at the same time keep the cadastral survey from falling too much into arrears. The topographical mapping of the Colonial Territories is properly the function of the Directorate of Colonial Surveys under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, but local resources are used to assist.

In the meantime, the demands from departments and officers directly concerned with the development of Sarawak's natural resources have been met by the provision of photostat mosaics. In the coastal swamp areas these mosaics can be used as they are, but in other areas they need the addition of an over drawing by hand to show the drainage pattern and relief, the latter by sketched form lines only.

Some 2,812 square miles of photostat mosaics were prepared during the year 1951 bringing the area available in this type of mapping to 19,500 square miles. The mosaics are compiled from photostat copies of the air photos and follow the layout of the 1/50,000 regular topographical sheet series which is still in course of production, but which, for the reasons stated above, is not yet available.

The work carried out by the central drawing office included the following items of interest :—

Some 1/25,000 sketch maps for the Geological Survey Department.

A map from air photo compilation of a portion of the coast in the Similajau area, Bintulu.

Preliminary map of the Usun Apau territory.

Special road map of Kuching published.

A relief model of Sarawak and Brunei on a horizontal scale of 4 miles to the inch and vertical scale of 4,000 feet to the inch was prepared for the Colombo Exhibition and despatched in January, 1952.

XV

Science and the Arts.

The Museum during 1951.

The Sarawak Museum established by the second Rajah Brooke in 1886 has grown into a fine mixed museum, having the best collection of Borneo arts and crafts to be found anywhere. It is the only museum in the island of Borneo. Situated in beautiful grounds in the centre of Kuching, it is a great attraction both to tourists and local institutions. Of the approximately 75,000 visitors during 1951 about a quarter were Dayaks, a third Malays, a third Chinese and the rest European and other races. School children accompanied by their teachers visit in increasing numbers. The two great stuffed Orang-utans, the snakes, the big whale skeleton and the human heads interest the young, while the photographs of Kuching in the past and the crafts collections attract the older visitors.

The lack of exhibits of Clouded Leopards and Honey Bears, noted in the 1950 report, is now well on its way to being remedied. A pair of Honey Bears was placed on exhibit during the year, though not yet against a scenic background and a whole family of Clouded Leopards has been prepared for display. All this material was obtained during an expedition to the Kelabit country in the headwaters of the Baram.

The 1950 report also mentioned the absence of a Rhinoceros exhibit. Through the good offices of the Conservator of Forests, most of the remains of a very large Rhinoceros, illegally shot by Dayaks during the year, have been received in the Museum. It will probably not be possible to re-constitute this as a complete specimen, but at least a remarkable horn will be available for display.

Research during the Year.

Through, or in conjunction with, the Museum four main types of research have been carried on during 1951 :—

- (1) Anthropological;
- (2) Historical;
- (3) Archaeological.
- (4) Zoological.

Considerable progress was made with all of these, particularly the anthropological and zoological research. But the gaps in the scientific knowledge of Borneo are really tremendous, when compared with the data available for other parts of South East Asia where there have been long-established research institutions—as for instance in Indonesia, Malaya, Indo-China and the Philippines. It is no exaggeration to say that the large gaps in knowledge about Borneo continually obstruct specialised or scholarly attempts to complete scientific theories throughout South East Asia generally. On the other hand, for this very reason, almost any research undertaken in Borneo generally, and in Sarawak in particular, produces exciting new results; results which sometimes may profoundly influence or alter previous existing theory.

Thus, researches during 1951 alone have suggested that previous belief about the migration of stone-age peoples in this part of the world may have to be very much modified; that the factors influencing and specialising the fauna above 3,000 feet have been too confidently generalised, from observation in other and generally less mountainous countries; and that the widely accepted theory of successive human economic development from nomad food gatherers through shifting cultivation to settled irrigation is probably due for an upset, at least so far as the Sarawak evidence goes.

Anthropological Research.

The activities of the Museum are largely focussed on anthropological and ethnological aspects of the country, which offer fascinating potentialities in the human field. The principal lines of anthropological research have been three in number :

- (1) The Kelabits of the far interior.
- (2) Group contacts and conflicts.
- (3) Native legend, with particular relation to migrations and geography.

(1) *The Kelabits of the far interior.*

This study, which was commenced in 1945 and has been carried on each year for periods varying between two and nine months of the year, was entirely continued during 1951. It is intended to carry on the survey for a number of years. The social life, individual behaviour, group and personal belief of Kelabit people living in long-houses in the uplands of the far interior have been studied in the most intimate detail, three persons usually being employed in collecting data under the Curator's general direction. It is hoped in due course to produce a series of monographs not only describing the social anthropology of these remote people, who still have an active megalithic culture, but also giving detailed life histories for about one hundred individuals, some of them old men when the survey started, others born during the course of the survey. It is believed that (if successfully continued) this may be one of the closest studies of an Asian community yet undertaken.

(2) *Group contacts and conflicts.*

In Borneo the movements of expanding groups, such as the Land and Sea Dayaks, have dominated the cultural and economic development of the island for many centuries. Some groups have been overwhelmed or absorbed. Other smaller groups have by various means actually taken over power and control from much larger groups. The series of studies in this field aim to measure this process with particular reference to the extinction of groups and the numerical decline of a number of major units. As well as research undertaken through the Museum, it is anticipated that much use will be made of the field studies begun in 1947 and continued in 1951 by four anthropologists from the London School of Economics (each studied one particular group).

(3) *Native legend with particular relation to migration and geography.*

The Museum Research Assistant spends about a half of each year recording legends in the original native text. This work is done to plan, and will eventually cover Sarawak as a whole. It is being found that this legendary material contains an enormous amount of *fact*, particularly in relation to the origins and movements of people (not only within Borneo but from other areas). In several cases, it has been possible

to check the reality of legends relating to a homeland of the far interior of the Rejang River by means of an exploration of this area undertaken by the Museum staff during the year—during which unquestionable archaeological proof of the reality of legendary statements was obtained. But apart from this, the material itself is of interest, especially from an anthropological point of view. A particular study has been made of legends on petrification, which play a large part in Borneo mythology, and among certain groups amount to an obsession.

Socio-economic survey of the Malay Community.

In addition to the above continuing researches plans were prepared during the year for a survey of the Malay community, which was not covered in the previous socio-economic survey, planned by Dr. E. R. Leach and conducted by four graduates. Approval for this scheme has now been received and a grant made from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund. It will be a major project for 1952.

Historical Research.

This overlaps with a section of the anthropological research referred to above, as indeed all aspects of human study overlap if pursued to their logical limits. This work depends on the Archives Section of the Museum which was established in 1949 and has continued during 1951 to expand with the accumulation of important documents as well as the day to day recording of current literature and events (including records obtained by photography, through the Museum Photographic Unit).

During the year a study was completed of the relations between the first two White pioneers of Sarawak, Sir James Brooke and Mr. Robert Burns, a grandson of the poet. Both were in search of antimony. One reason why Kuching was the centre of early settlement and became the capital of the country was because of the antimony mine, long ago located at Bau and now defunct. Burns made remarkable journeys into the Upper Baram and Rejang, which were not subsequently visited by any other white man for many years. He came into direct conflict with Brooke as a dangerous rival and was defeated in the subsequent contest of diplomacy. He eventually lost his life and his head at the hands of the pirates off the coast of North Borneo. This study will be published shortly in the Sarawak Museum Journal.

Another study, nearly completed during the year, traces the attitude of the first two Rajah Brookes to the court of Queen Victoria, and their official and unofficial negotiations for social recognition. These include some fascinating documents. During the year Miss Emily Hann, the well-known biographer of Sir Stamford Raffles, visited Sarawak to prepare "A life of Sir James Brooke." She spent some time in the Archives and Reference Library Sections in the Museum; all possible assistance was given to her.

It is anticipated that in the future this type of research activity will be considerably increased. There is an urgent need for histories of Sarawak. The plural is deliberately used. No single history could include the complexity of races of migrations of Chinese, Javanese and Malay contacts, Dayak expansion, Kelabit specialisation, and the detailed intricacies of Brooke evolution. But the practical approach in Sarawak is to make special research studies of special periods or groups, gradually linking them together. Moreover, there is need to educate different racial groups into their own group histories, and in their own languages.

Archaeological Research.

The programme of archaeological research outlined in the 1950 report was less actively continued during 1951, although its intensification had been anticipated. This was mainly owing to the increase in labour costs. During 1951, therefore, attention was centred on reconnaissance work in other areas, including a general reconnaissance of the Sarawak River Delta carried out in conjunction with Dr. Schuyler Cammann, Curator of the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania. The knowledge so gained will be of material assistance in 1952. Much attention was also paid to the collection of stone implements and over a hundred of these were obtained. A preliminary analysis of some of these was prepared by the Curator and published in *MAN*, the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute for February, 1951. This paper raises questions of considerable interest in the anthropological field, and the concluding paragraph is quoted here to indicate the general conclusion:

"It seems probable that apparently logical sequences of cultural typology have so far been too closely drawn in South-East Asia, and that more study data are required

before it is safe—or even wisely suggestive—to erect such sequences upon simple material criteria. The group of 126 specimens here considered in itself raises many question marks. No doubt others remain to be raised. One is, of course, the antiquity of this group. For instance, this material could suggest that in Borneo different ‘neolithics’ existed side by side, just as today the Kelabits of the interior and the Europeans of the coast live material poles apart within one ‘iron age’.”

In December one of the Museum staff returned after a year's training in archaeology in London, first at the Cambridge Museum of Ethnology and Archaeology and then under Prof. V. Gordon Childe at the Institute of Archaeology, University of London, where he passed out with high credit. His return will facilitate the conduct of archaeological work in the Colony; the same organisation support the urgency of archaeological research as apply to historical research. In some ways archaeological research is even more urgent. For whereas an effective organisation for keeping the archives is now in existence, there is not yet even effective legislation, let alone *action* to control the destruction of archaeological sites for all time.

During the year, concern was felt at the increased rate of extraction of guano fertilizer from the Niah and Bau caves, affecting some important ancient burials. The Curator made a month's trip overland visiting the Mulu and Niah caves during December and as a result submitted a report which it is hoped, may lead to some constructive measures before it is too late.

Zoology.

Research in the zoology field was concentrated on four particular sections—mammals, birds, turtles, and the Giant African Snail; it is very difficult in Sarawak to cover the whole wide field of zoology satisfactorily with existing facilities. Where available personnel have expert knowledge and there are trained native collectors, considerable progress was made during the year 1951, e.g. with mammals and birds, in adding to the general collections of the Museum and in illuminating special problems. Some aspects of this work may be briefly considered in turn.

Mammals and Scrub Typhus.

Throughout the year systematic collections were made by trapping in the Kuching area, with occasional expeditions elsewhere, on behalf of the Scrub Typhus Research Unit at Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. One of the Museum collectors did a course of training with that unit and specialised in collecting the typhus-carrying mites from rats, squirrels, tree-shrews and other mammals. Reports to date, from Kuala Lumpur, indicate that the results have added a good deal to existing knowledge and filled in a gap left between the unit's own investigations in Malaya and in North Borneo.

At the same time, a large collection of mammal skins has been accumulated, both through the scrub typhus work and by collectors generally, as part of a scheme in conjunction with the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, designed to build up a complete picture of the mammal fauna of Borneo. The Chicago Museum sent its own expedition into the field in North Borneo and the Sarawak Museum has provided comparable material from this territory. When the whole material has been systematically studied and described, it will be shared between the Chicago Museum and the Sarawak Museum.

Ornithological Studies.

In much the same way, bird collecting has been carried out systematically in the Kuching district throughout the year, nearly 2,000 specimens being obtained. This is part of a scheme largely made possible through the interest and support of Mr. Loke Wan Tho, himself an ornithologist and expert photographer. The plan is to train native collectors from all over Sarawak so that they can collect systematically in their own areas, bringing down their collections to the nearest District Officer from time to time. Already, 2 Kelabits, 2 Muruts, 2 Kenyahs, 2 Berawans, 2 Land Dayaks and 1 Kayan, have been trained and sent home, and their collections should start coming in during 1952. This will provide material of the first importance for systematic study of the bird fauna of Borneo, with special reference to geographical variation, and on an orderly scale perhaps not attempted previously anywhere in this part of the world.

Dr. Ernst Mayr has agreed to supervise the working out of the material in comparison with other areas, at the American Museum of Natural History. The material will

then be shared between the American Museum of Natural History and the Sarawak Museum on the usual basis of such sharing between Museums where the joint work of each is recognised—one in undertaking the collecting and the other in undertaking the arranging and identifying of the collection. It would be beyond the resources of the Sarawak Museum itself to work through such large collections in any one field owing to lack of man-hours and lack of comparative material from other countries since this Museum's collections are confined to Borneo.

In addition to this general ornithological survey, special studies have continued on the habits of Edible Bird's Nest Swifts (*Collocalia*); and into the feeding habits of birds of economic importance such as *Munias* and Pigeons. The Edible Swifts produce nests which are economically important and it is believed that research may indicate methods of increasing the yield of nests by more systematic methods of collecting and handling. As regards the food habits of economic birds, in some areas as much as 50% of the rice crop may be taken by birds during "bad" years, and an undertaking of the factors which control epidemics of certain birds, and sudden mass migrations, great economic significance. No special funds are provided for any such research, but it is conducted as and when possible, within the general pattern of the systematic studies already mentioned.

Turtles.

As mentioned in the 1950 report the turtle industry was reorganised during that year, and experiments undertaken to conserve the species, to improve the hatch of eggs, and to study methods of rearing young turtles so that these can be put into the sea in such a condition as to resist the attacks of sharks and other fish which normally take the majority of them in the first few minutes of their lives.

The yield of eggs was not so good as in 1950, but even so, \$15,000.00 profit was handed over for Muslim charities through the Turtle Trust. The factors which influence year to year fluctuations in the numbers of turtles laying are not yet understood. General knowledge about this very important economic animal is extraordinarily small, although it is distributed in warm seas right round the world. Active research on these factors was therefore continued during the year. During the latter part of the year Professor R. Denison

Purchon, Professor of Zoology, University of Malaya, visited the islands with the Curator, to investigate the possibilities of his department co-operating in such research. As a result it is hoped that during 1952 a senior graduate from the University of Malaya may be available to spend some time co-operating in this activity.

At the end of the year, new legislation was enacted to strengthen the previous act, controlling the industry. There is now established a Turtle Board of Management, of which the Development Secretary is Chairman and the Curator of the Sarawak Museum is Executive Officer. This should facilitate the organisation of further development in future years.

The Curator, in search of still wider co-operation, wrote a letter dated August 30th, 1951, to the international scientific journal, *Nature*. This letter gave general information about the whole industry, and is quoted below:—

“ The scanty literature on the green or edible turtle, *Chelonia mydas*, as reviewed by Ingle and Smith¹, agrees in allocating a definite breeding season (in no case more than six months) to this species, varying from April-August in the West Indies to October-February in Queensland.

The significance of monthly figures from three islands off the Sarawak (Borneo) coast summarized by Banks² appears to have been overlooked, perhaps because they were derived from Malay collectors and contain some noticeable contradictions (for example, totals on pp. 527 and 530 of ref. 2). Since 1947, accurate figures have been kept from these three islands, now no longer controlled by the Malay chieftains but through the Curator, Sarawak Museum. There can be no question that green turtles do breed in every month of the year on each island; a permanent staff collects eggs nightly. Adults are never killed. Figures for 1950 (including eggs replanted for hatching) are reasonably typical. The 1950 total of 2,357,644 eggs recorded was distributed as in the accompanying table.

¹Ingle, Robert M., and Smith, F. G. Walton, “Sea Turtles and the Turtle Industry of the West Indies, Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico; with Annotated Bibliography” (Univ. Miami Pub., 1948).

²Banks, E., *Sarawak Mus. J.*, 4, No. 15 (1937).

<i>Month.</i>	<i>No. of eggs.</i>	<i>Month.</i>	<i>No. of eggs.</i>
January	24,264	July	495,191
February	26,205	August	503,688
March	42,798	September	370,626
April	75,247	October	194,228
May	171,510	November	90,122
June	315,533	December	48,232

Despite a definite 'summer' peak, 12 per cent of the eggs were laid in the six full monsoon months (November-April), which in 1950 was often severe, making it very difficult for the turtles to get ashore on the three tiny (total six acres) beaches. On only one night (December 12) in the year did no turtle come ashore and lay.

This situation raises points of general interest in connexion with breeding cycles, and is being further studied. It is, however, possible that it is not peculiar to this area. Careful studies of this economically important and readily observed species are exceedingly meagre. Even the fullest study, that of Moorhouse³ on the Great Barrier Reef, only covers five months (1929-30) and takes much for granted. For example, referring to statements by previous writers that incubation takes six to eight weeks, he concludes (ref. 3, p. 10) that "the present investigations have proved this a fallacy"—because his observations gave 65-72 days. But he only studied eleven nests. In Sarawak, the longest incubation period recorded so far is 65 days, the shortest 50. Ninety clutches laid in the height of the 1950 season (August) averaged 52 days.

In the monsoon, hatching is on the average slower. There are interesting possibilities for comparative work over the enormous range of this common (though decreasing) species, the habits of which lend themselves to exact observation and statistical checking. We here would welcome any research co-operation or co-ordination.

As a result of this letter, correspondence was received from other countries, including valuable suggestions and offers of active help from the New York Zoological Society, through its Curator, Dr. James A. Oliver.

³Moorhouse, F. W., "Reports of the Great Barrier Reef Committee", 4, Pt. 1 (1933).

Blood Groups.

Mention may also be made here of research into blood groupings, a subject both of anthropological interest and of medical importance. During the year, a paper was prepared on blood grouping material obtained by Dr. J. Clapham and Dr. E. H. Wallace of the Medical Department and worked out in Australia; this was correlated with ethnological material provided from the Museum. A long joint paper will shortly be published.

In addition Lt. P. H. A. Sneath, of the Pathology Laboratory, British Military Hospital, Singapore, visited Kuching to carry out blood group sampling during 1951, in conjunction with the Medical Department and the Museum which were able to provide him with considerable facilities. He concentrated on a small group of Land Dayaks in a more detailed study than that previously described.

Native Arts.

During the year, attention was paid to the problem of the decline in native arts, a decline recently accelerated by the boom in rubber.

Efforts have been made therefore to encourage craftsmen, such as the man who made the beautiful bamboo pipes in the Land Davak country and the wonderful wood carvers of the Tinjar River. This encouragement was usefully focused on supplying material for the Festival of Britain Exhibition and specially in strengthening the Sarawak exhibits in the Imperial Institute.

There is no doubt that Sarawak has some of the finest of arts and crafts, particularly in the fields of wood carving (Kenyah), weaving (Iban and Land Davak), basketry (Melanau, Land Davak, Kedavan), bamboo decorating (Kelabit, and Land Davak), beadwork (Kenyah-Kayan), swords (Kenyah and latterly Punan) and the ever fascinating blowpipe (Punan). Unfortunately, *all* these crafts are steadily declining, especially the finer types of workmanship.

Ceramic Arts.

Many visitors are impressed by the number and quality of ceramic objects to be found in long-houses even far in the interior. The Museum is concerned with its collection in this section which was enlarged during 1951. This china and

pottery is nearly all of Chinese or Siamese origin and was traded into Borneo as early as the Tang Dynasty. It must have come in vast quantities to be exchanged for hornbill ivory, spice, gum, gold and rottan.

At present, facilities for exhibiting ceramics in the Museum are inadequate and a large part of the collection (mostly acquired in the last five years) is temporarily housed as reference collection in store. It is hoped that this deficiency may be overcome before long.

The Arts of Brunei.

Brunei has long been an art and culture centre for the whole of Borneo. Its arts and crafts, considerably influenced by Chinese and other cultures, in the past, produced magnificent objects in gold and bronze and latterly silver. During the early part of this century, the standards gravely declined; but in recent years there has been an encouraging improvement, and it is now hoped that within the next few years there will not only be a special Brunei gallery at Kuching but also a separate museum unit, associated and cared for through the Sarawak Museum, in Brunei itself.

Research has also continued into the translation of important Brunei manuscripts, and it is hoped to link this up with parallel research on the Chinese relevant to Brunei through the visit of Dr. Schuyler Cammann, who went to Brunei in this connection as well as spending some time in Sarawak.

Meanwhile the Brunei Government has given generous support to the Sarawak Museum to encourage research into Brunei arts and crafts and the acquisition of fine specimens.

XVI

Geography and Climate.

General description.

The Colony of Sarawak consists of a coastal strip some 450 miles long and varying from 40 to 120 miles in depth on the north-west coast of the island of Borneo, and has an area of some 47,000 square miles.

A broken range of mountains runs south-west through the middle of the island. This range, with others parallel and at right angles to it, determines the courses of the many rivers.

Sarawak lies between this range and the sea, on its north-west side. The southern border, with West Borneo, is formed by another range of mountains running westerly from about the centre of the main range.

In general, the country is divided into three main types. Firstly, an alluvial and swampy coastal plain in which isolated mountains and mountain groups rise to 2,000 feet or more, then rolling country of yellow sandy clay intersected by ranges of mountains and finally a mountainous area in the interior.

The coast is generally flat and low-lying with heavy vegetation and flat sandy or mud beaches. In a few places, hills come down to the sea forming coastal cliffs.

Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

Vegetation on the mountains is generally virgin forest, except near the main rivers where the forest has been cleared for rice cultivation and secondary growth has sprung up.

The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches..

Geology.

Sarawak occupies an important position in the chain of islands lying off the coast of South-East Asia. Mountains form the hinterland of the country and consist largely of ancient rocks; these highlands are essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving northwest. In the extreme west of the country there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-northeast in common with the Malayan regional strike.

The territory can be subdivided into three main geological areas; the influence of the different rock types in these areas is shown in that they also form the three geographical divisions of, interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups, and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of ancient Upper Palaeozoic and Mesozoic rocks. It consists mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllites, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, and quartzite; igneous intrusions are common in some districts.

The undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet, consists mainly of Tertiary sediments. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur, and oil reservoirs in British Borneo have to date only been found in such formations. The Tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both the oil and coal.

The low-lying coastal tracts are formed from Pleistocene and recent deposits: these areas are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of them are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat, to unconsolidated sands, and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediment inland representing marine, river, and lake accumulation.

Igneous rocks comprising intrusions of granite and diorite are common in west Sarawak, and there is also some gabbro. Dykes, sills, and plugs, mainly of quartz porphyry, andesite,

and less commonly dolerite, have been recorded while lava, tuff, agglomerate, and basalt also occur at a number of localities. These are most commonly found associated with Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. The formation of metalliferous mineral deposits, such as gold, antimony, and mercury, appears to be genetically related to the igneous intrusions. Recent work in the Bau district has shown that the igneous intrusions there often contain small amounts of gold.

Vegetation.

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers.

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right-angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the size of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff, glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and farther up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorological.

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 157.26 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 18.45 inches in October and the minimum 8.30 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Principal Towns.

Kuching, the capital of Sarawak, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population estimated at approximately 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, which is built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is the Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also may be found Fort Margherita, the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary, large Malay riverside *kampongs* and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dockyard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Board.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang river and is a natural river anchorage. The town itself, together with Government offices, bazaar,

churches, schools, wharves and warehouses, lies on a small flat island and is subject at times to floods. The population of the town of Sibü is approximately 10,000 and it is the headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is situated on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of approximately 9,000. It suffered severe damage as a result of the war, the town proper being almost entirely destroyed, but its reconstruction is now far advanced. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow flat strip of land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand persons, together with the usual bazaar, Government offices and quarters, and wharfage facilities.

XVII

History of Sarawak.

Owing to the lack of systematic archaeological investigation, we can do little more than conjecture as to the early history of the country now called Sarawak. Hindu figures and gold ornaments have been found, predominantly in the Sarawak River basin, but their date and provenance have not yet been satisfactorily established. The Land Dayaks of the First Division, by their abstention from the flesh of cattle and by the name of their god Jewata (Hindu *deva*), show that at one time they were brought into intimate contact with the Hindus.

A priori reasoning, coupled with the discovery of undoubtedly early Hindu remains in other parts of Borneo, suggests that Sarawak was visited, and probably settled in, by the Indian colonists, who from the early years of the Christian era went forth from their homeland to trade and settle in the countries to the south-east.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present-day total world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the Ramayana), Ptolemy's *Iabadiou*, and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within

the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Moslem states established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526 and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and by an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as the present capital, Kuching.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however, is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built upon the foundations laid by his uncle with such conspicuous success that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River, in 1885, when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded, and in 1890, when the Limbang River was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased to exist; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had

been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary reformed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

XVIII

Flora and Fauna.

The island of Borneo has one of the richest collections of animals and plants in the world. The outstanding characteristic of the world's third largest island, in this connection, are two in number. The first is that it is in very large part mountainous. Although there are no great mountains, there are innumerable peaks and ranges over 3,000 feet, which intersect and intermingle to form a great tangled chaos over the whole interior. Secondly, Borneo is one of the least densely populated tropical areas in the world. In Sarawak, vast tracts are uninhabited. For instance, in 1951, an exploration party travelled from the last village in the Baram River over previously unmapped and unexplored country for 26 days before they reached the first long-house in the Rejang River above Belaga.

These two characteristics, great areas of mountains and of virgin jungle, give Borneo in general, and Sarawak in particular, a rich share in the fauna and flora of South East Asia.

The jungle is a great vibrating board of sound, and much of its life goes on in the top sky-scraper high above the human visitor's head. It is always responsive to strange and ignorant noises. Also, it is affected by heat and light. Its great, varied humming activity comes in the early hours of morning and the late hours of the evening. At noon, the most observant watcher in the world may patrol it and fail to recognise anything other than shadow, and indeed fail to be recognised even by a mosquito!

But those who are prepared patiently to master the dawn or the dusk of Borneo jungle, will find therein one of the richest and most exciting forms of life that the human mind can describe or imagine. There are more than a hundred species of mammals. There are more than six hundred kinds of bird, of which it is easy to see and identify a hundred within a few days. There are literally tens of thousands of sorts of insect and plant. Everywhere, growing along with



[Photograph by K. F. Wong.

Cattleya Fabia.



the darkly vivid jungle, there is vigorous life which includes some of the most ordinary as well as some of the most extraordinary animals and plants in the world.

Perhaps the most famous of Borneo animals is the Orang Utan or Maias, one of the very few close cousins of *Homo sapiens*. It is only found in Borneo and a small part of Sumatra. Despite constant persecutions and inadequate protection, there are still a number of Maias in Sarawak and in sections of the adjacent territories of Indonesian Borneo and North Borneo. This charming, amiable, chestnut-furred animal, desired by zoos all over the world, can still be seen, shambling from tree to tree in the inland sections of the First and Second Divisions.

Another of the five great apes of the world also occurs in Borneo, the Gibbon or *Wak-wak*, probably the most graceful of all arboreal animals. A favourable pet, it is in captivity very susceptible to pneumonic diseases.

A little below the apes are the monkeys. Here again, Sarawak can claim some distinction. The Proboscis Monkey, represented on North Borneo stamps, is peculiar to the island and is distinguished by an immense rubicund port-wine nose. It seems a little unfair that the native name for this otherwise elegant animal, sometimes standing almost as high as a man, is "Orang Blanda"—in English "a Dutchman."

Sarawak is rich in other mammals, of which there is space to mention only a few. The Rhinoceros is dangerously near extinction, largely owing to the persistent, (now illegal) hunting of these animals by the Dayaks, who sell them to the Chinese. Wild cattles are quite commonly found in the northern part of the Colony; wild elephants are confined to North Borneo. Three sorts of deer are extremely numerous; the Sambhur Deer or *Rusa*, almost as big as a cow, is in some places a nuisance to rice farmers. The tiny Mousedeer or "Pelandok", famous in many Malay legends, does not seem to be so clever as the stories suggest, but on the other hand provides some of the most succulent meat for those who travel through the jungle.

There is only one dangerous animal, the Honey Bear or "Bruang". The Leopard can be immense and magnificent. But the people of the island regard it as effeminate. The

Honey Bear, however, if upset or with a family of young, will attack the unwary traveller. Many are the stories of people who have been clawed and in some cases killed, by angry Honey Bears.

Of the many animals, mention may perhaps be made of the Kelabit Badger, only found in the highlands, which looks rather like a Skunk and performs exactly like one. The flying squirrels, flying lemurs and flying foxes give us variation on the theme of gliding. There are plenty of porcupines, who do *not* discharge their quills. There is a sort of bat which is blind and white, and has a pouch in which lives a special sort of insect not found anywhere else. There are caves which a million bats share with more than a million swifts in the ghostly shadows of daytime and the whirling vortex of dusk. Of course, to those who plough along with a line of porters on a time schedule little of this is revealed, and the tense crowded life of the jungle is only visible to those who give it attention.

There is also to be found in Borneo one of the richest bird faunas in the world. There are several sorts of Hornbill, notorious for their domesticity—the male walls the female into the nest and feeds her therein and only liberates her when the young are ready to fly. There are several of the most beautiful pheasants in the world, including the spectacular Argus. Its feathers are more handsome than those of the peacock; its dancing grounds are stamped out of the mud so that several males can compete to the delight, or at least excitement, of Lady A.

Sarawak has Parrots, Broadbills, ten sorts of Pigeon, Egrets, nearly twenty kinds of Woodpecker, exquisite Honey-eaters and Flower-peckers, the lovely voiced Yellow-Crowned Bulbul, ten kinds of flashing Kingfishers and so many many other birds that it is doubtful if any one person could ever learn to know and recognise them all in one life time.

Some of the birds, such as the Munias or Parrot Finches which probably eat a few million dollars' worth of padi in a year, or the Swiftlets which, from the compassion of their saliva, make edible nests worth many thousands of dollars a year, are of economic interest. The Edible Swifts of Sarawak, along with Edible Turtles, provide two of the most favoured foods for export to gourmets in China.

Sarawak can boast of the presence of the most dangerous and deadly snake in the world, the Hamadryad or King Cobra. This appalling reptile, which can grow over 15 feet in length and is quite common is one of the very few in the world which will deliberately attack human beings. It also has its own hideous beauty.

Lizards, of which there are almost a hundred kinds, are more conspicuous, especially because of the attraction which human dwellings appear to have for some variation; the most obvious are the Gecko and "chichak". An observant person will quite often see Flying Lizards, which actually only glide on membranes extended between the front and back limbs. Sarawak is rich in flying forms, its Flying Snake being one of the most spectacular. This peculiar snake, which looks quite ordinary, can (when it wishes) extend its ribs to produce two sails and soar for quite a distance. One which was let go from the upper storey of the Sarawak Museum, glided nearly 50 yards. Among the amphibians, there are also Flying Frogs and frogs with small bodies and huge feet upon which are suckers. There are also enormous toads, some of them weighing pounds, which like to sit on rotten tree trunks, cogitating.

For the rest, the vertebrate fauna—those with backbones—is mainly to be found in the sea. There are plenty of sharks, sometimes weighing up to hundreds of pounds; although there is no record in recent years of anybody being taken by a shark, but someone is consumed by a crocodile in the rivers each year. There seem to be very few other big fish; so far no one has shown that big game fishing is possible here. This is largely because there appears to be a shortage of feed for big fish around Sarawak's shores—and in general, fish are just numerous enough to satisfy local markets. The only three common big fish which can be taken on line are the Baraccuda, the Horse Mackerel and the Banito. Very big Sting Rays are seen from time to time, and large Saw-fish are sometimes caught in fishermen's nets about the deltas—unfortunately for the fishermen, whose nets are thereby damaged.

Perhaps enough has been said to indicate the tremendous wealth of Sarawak's animal and plant life. Numerous other illustrations of this wealth can be produced from *Molluscs*

(shells), *Crustaceans* (crabs, etc.), *Arthropods* (spiders, etc.) and *Nematodes* (worms). In the vertebrate section of spineless or boneless animals, the variety of forms is immense; Dr. B. M. Hobby, M.A., D. Phil, F.R.E.S. of the Department of Entomology Oxford who accompanied the Oxford University Expedition to Sarawak in 1932, has continued to write descriptive papers on specialised groups of insects ever since, and will himself be the first to admit that he only has a fractional knowledge of the insect fauna of Sarawak.

Sarawak also teems with beautiful flies, loveliest of all being the Rajah Brooke's Bird-Wing which features on Sarawak stamps, though with considerable inaccuracy.

As essential background, of course, to all the animal life, the fauna of this vivid territory, is the plant life, the flora. This is a little less varied, but even so one of the most prolific and fertile. There are some very distinct vegetation forms which in turn largely determine the fauna living within them. Above about 3,000 feet on the numerous mountains there is low vegetation draped with mosses with its own special fauna and flora—the "moss forest habitat." In the lowlands, the jungle grows to great heights and where it has not been felled produces several different levels of animal and plant life. This virgin jungle, with its canopy, sub-canopy intermediate and ground level fauna and flora is the most widespread and the richest environment for the life of Borneo. Big sections of Sarawak are entirely given up to virgin jungle, uninhabited except by the occasional visits of nomadic Punans.

Where man has had his influence there is secondary jungle, gradually reverting to primary jungle over many years and distinguished by the lack of great trees. And on the coastal plain the swamp forests, large areas of mangrove and nipah palm, and along the sand fringes *Casuarina*: as with the animals so with the plants, abundance is the descriptive word.

To the hasty eye, it all looks rather dull, uniform and unexciting. There are no towering banks of orchids or great clutching plants. There is the dark green, background, the damp, and the decay which is the essence of equatorial jungle. But to those who are prepared to take a second, slower look, to sit around patiently, to be bitten by leeches, wonders and beauties will presently reveal themselves. For in Sarawak

are some of the world's most glorious orchids such as the *Arachnis grandiflora*. not obvious but easily found upon the epiphytic trees, which are their hosts. The most weird is perhaps the *Rafflesia*, a staggering yellow and red blossom which comes straight out of the ground as a jungle flower big enough to have your bath in.

But we must draw the line somewhere. The only place is within the jungle itself. A few pages can never describe the mystery of this complexity; ugliness, beauty, discomfort and peace.

XIX

Administration.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of twenty-five members, fourteen of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and eleven of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the Colony and of their various interests. The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the twenty-five members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Colony and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the Colony except with the consent of the Council Negri.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases.

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgment, His Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgment, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

The Constitution was granted to Sarawak by the Rajah in 1941 and in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and the Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is subdivided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into small areas or sub-stations each in charge of a member of the Native Officers' Service. As far as is practicable, it is the policy of the Government to free Residents and District Officers from as much routine office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the key-note of the administration. Native Administration has in the past been of the direct type, with village headmen or chiefs of village groups responsible to European and Malay Officers.

Before the war, however, the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This order envisaged the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs but the first experiment on these lines was unsuccessful owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision.

In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Local Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. During the past year eleven new Authorities have been constituted, and there are now sixteen Local Authorities in all. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, and this seems inevitable at

present if any progress is to be made. There are, however, encouraging signs of co-operation between the various races in certain parts of the country. In Limbang Malays, Chinese, Kedayans, Muruts and Indians participate in the same Authority; a mixed Malay and Dayak Authority has been formed at Lundu in the First Division; and a mixed Malay, Sea Dayak and Land Dayak Authority was about to be launched at Serian at the end of the year. At the beginning of 1950 no less than 195,000 persons were living within the sphere of a Local Authority.

The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number of tax-payers.

While the standard of efficiency between one Authority and another has differed widely, they have in general shown ability to undertake the duties so far allotted to them. Education has been a subject in which they have shown the greatest interest, and some of them have been quick to appreciate that increased expenditure can generally be met only by increased taxation.

XX

Weights and Measures.

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of the Colony are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful :—

1 Tabil	= $1\frac{1}{3}$ ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	= $1\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Pikul (100 katis)	= $133\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Koyan (40 pikuls)	= $5333\frac{1}{3}$ lbs.
1 Chhun	= 1.19/40 inches.
10 Chhuns	= 1 Chhek = $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang	= 108 stacked cubic feet.

XXI

Newspapers and Periodicals.

- The Sarawak Tribune, Kuching (Daily) (English).
The Chinese Daily News, Kuching (Daily) (Chinese).
The Ta Tung Oversea Chinese Daily News, Sibuan (Chinese).
The Sie Hwa Daily News, Sibuan (Chinese).
The Current Critic, Kuching (Bi-weekly) (Chinese).
The Chian Hong Po Daily, Kuching (Chinese).
The Utusan Sarawak, Kuching (Bi-weekly) (Malay).
Pedoman Rakyat (Monthly) (Malay).
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- Sarawak Museum Journal.
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- The Handbook of Sarawak (1949).

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- The Expedition to Borneo of H.M.S. *Dido* for the Suppression of Piracy (containing extracts from the journal of the 1st Rajah)—Capt. H. Keppel, R.N., 1846.
- Low's Sarawak—Hugh Low, 1848.
- Rajah Brooke's Journals (First Rajah) (Historical)—Capt. Mundy, R.N., 1848.
- Life in the Forests of the Far East—Spencer St. John (2 vols.), 1863.
- Ten Years in Sarawak (Descriptive)—H.H. Sir Charles Brooke (2nd Rajah), 1866.
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- The Pagan Tribes of Borneo (Descriptive)—Hose and McDougall, 1912.
- My Life in Sarawak—Ranee of Sarawak (Ranee Margaret), 1913.

Borneo, The Land of River and Palm—Eda Green, 1919.
Sarawak. (A small handbook written at the time of the
Malaya-Borneo Exhibition in Singapore, 1922)—H.H.
the Ranee.

Letters from Sarawak (Descriptive)—Mrs. McDougall
(wife of 1st Bishop), 1924.

Rajah Brooke and Baroness Burdett Coutts. (Interesting
letters exchanged between Sir James Brooke and
Baroness Burdett Coutts)—Owen Rutter, 1935.

The Three White Rajahs—H.H. the Ranee, 1939.

A Naturalist in Sarawak—E. Banks—(Kuching Press,
Kuching, 1949).

Bornean Mammals—E. Banks—(Kuching Press, Kuching,
1949).

The Natural Resources of Sarawak—F. W. Roe, 1952.

APPENDIX

DEVELOPMENT

1951.

SCHEME

Source

Est
Exp
to**AGRICULTURE.**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Soil Survey
(Scheme D. 816 &
D. 816A) | C.D. & W.(R)
Local funds
(R) |
| 2. Improvement of Rubber
Industry
(Scheme D. 826) | C.D. & W.
(C & R)
Local funds
(R) |
| 3. Cultivation of Cash
Crops
(Scheme D. 954) | C.D. & W.(R)
Local funds
(R) |
| 4. Mechanical Cultivation
(Schemes D. 973 &
D. 973A) | C.D. & W.
Local funds |
| 5. Development of Farm
Mechanisation
(Scheme D. 1664) | C.D. & W.(C)
Local funds
(R) |
| 6. Padi Production—
Paya Megok
(Schemes D. 1208 &
D. 1208A) | C.D. & W.
(C & R)

Local funds |
| 7. Padi Production—
Niah/Sibuti | C.D. & W.
Local funds |
| 8. Agricultural Staff
Training School
(Scheme D. 1519) | C.D. & W.(C)

Local funds |
| 9. Cocoa Development—
Seed production
(Scheme D. 1424) | C.D. & W.
(C & R)
Local funds |

SCHEME

10. Animal Husbandry
(Provision of
stock for Farm
Progeny Retention)
11. Regional Agricultural
Research Institute
12. Manufacture of
Fertilizer—
experiments
13. Centralised processing
factories for

TOTALS AG

FORESTRY.Forestry Department
(Scheme D. 1)

TOTALS

FISHERIES.

1. Marine Fisheries
Research Station
Singapore
2. Fishery Development

TOTALS

COLONY OF SARAWAK

	Source	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.51	REMARKS.
		\$	
undry			
Foundation	C.D. & W.	—	
Workers on	Local funds		
(Turn Basis)	(C)	—	
Cultural	C.D. & W.(C)	—	
Institute	Local funds	—	Joint Institute for Borneo Territories. Sarawak share (60%) shown here.
	(R)	—	
Artificial	C.D. & W.	—	If the experiments are successful and equipment and staff can be obtained larger capital expenditure will be required.
	Local funds	2,000	
Processing	C.D. & W.	—	*Cost of Kuap Rubber Factory. Met from Rubber Fund. It is hoped that additional funds will be forthcoming for more factories.
Rubber	Local funds (C)	43,899*	
AGRICULTURE		819,119	
at	C.D. & W.		This is in addition to normal expenditure under Forest Department Head of Ex- penditure in Part I of Estimates.
1120)	(C & R) Local funds	74,997 —	
FORESTRY		74,997	
ion	C.D. & W.	—	Five year scheme. Sarawak's contribution.
	Local funds	10,344	
ment	C.D. & W.	—	Three year Scheme in the first instance.
	Local funds	—	
FISHERIES		10,344	

SCHEME

Source

Est
Expe
to :

SCHEM

COMMUNICATIONS.**1. ROAD DEVELOPMENT**(Schemes (D. 1076,
D. 1076A, D. 1076B,
D. 1076C)

- (1) (a) Reconstruction 29½
-
- miles Kuching/Serian
-
- Road C.D. & W.(C)

- (b) Survey Serian/
-
- Simanggang Road C.D. & W.(C)
-
- Local funds
-
- (C)

- (c) Test bores
-
- Serian/Simanggang
-
- Road C.D. & W.(C)

- (2) Reconstruction of
-
- Bridges in Upper
-
- Sarawak area C.D. & W.(C)

- (3) Ensengie Road C.D. & W.(C)

- (4) (a) Road Limbang to
-
- Brunei Border C.D. & W.(C)

- (b) Lawas/Trusan
-
- Road C.D. & W.(C)

- (c) Ulu Trusan track,
-
- improvement C.D. & W.(C)

- (5) Road Making
-
- Equipment C.D. & W.(C)

- 2. TRUNK ROADS**
-
- Serian-Simanggang
-
- Road C.D. & W.(C)
-
- Local funds
-
- (C)

- 3. SECONDARY**
-
- Butir-Berke

- 4. ROAD RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

- 5. AIRFIELDS**

- (1) Kuching Airfield
-
- (Scheme D.
-
- D. 913A, D.

- (2) Sibul Airfield
-
- (Scheme D.
-
- D. 1542A)

- 6. PORT DEVELOPMENT**

- (1) Test bores
-
- Rejang and
-
- Rivers (Scheme
-
- D. 1273)

- (2) Gunong Aye

- (3) Oil Storage,
-
- Kuching

- (4) Oil Storage
-
- Sibu

- (5) Wharfage and
-
- Kuching and

COLONY OF SARAWAK

NAME	Source	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.51	REMARKS.
		\$	
ROADS	C.D. & W.(C)	—	
nu Road	Local funds (C)	—	
ON-	C.D. & W.(C)	—	} One-quarter to be met from } Loan Funds.
N	Local funds	—	
ME	(C)	—	
port	C.D. & W.(C)	598,413	} Expenditure of \$411,428 met } from Joint Reserve Fund.
913, 913B)	Local funds (C)	68,600	
1542,	C.D. & W.(C)	170,000	
	Local funds (C)	41,000	
LOP-			
Kuching eme	C.D. & W.(C)	76,000	Completed.
r	Local funds (C)	—	
	Local funds (C)	—	
	Local funds (C)	25,000	
d Godowns, d Sibu	Local funds (C)	—	

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SCHEME	Source	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.51	REMA
		\$	
7. TELECOMMUNICATIONS			
(i) General	Local funds (C)	5,912	
(ii) Aeronautical (Scheme (D. 1117- D. 1117C)	C.D. & W. (C & R) Local funds (R)	322,657 —	*\$90,000 for **To be met Allocation Funds.
8. WATERWAYS			
Sungei Kut Canal	Local funds (C)	—	
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS		2,006,794	

FUEL AND POWER.

Electricity Supplies	Local funds (C)	—
TOTALS, FUEL & POWER		—

EDUCATION.

(1) Batu Lintang Training Centre and School (Scheme D. 839, D. 839A)	C.D. & W. (C & R) Local funds (C & R)	486,259 —	Nett cost of W. Scheme Capital expe manent bui ment \$1.00 Estimated rent Exper p.a.
2. Rural Improvement School, Kanowit (Scheme D. 838)	C.D. & W. (C & R) Local funds (C & R)	240,911 56,300	

RKS.	Source	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.51	REMARKS.
		\$	
	Local funds	10,000	Limited number of Scholarships also awarded under C.D. & W. £1 million scheme.
Sibu airfield.	Local funds	—	Provisional Estimate.
from Central	D. & W.(C)	—	Grants towards Capital Expenditure.
of C.D. & W.	D. & W.(C)	—	Grants towards Capital Expenditure.
	D. & W.(C)	—	Recurrent expenditure to be provided under Part I, Head Education.
	Local funds	900	
		794,370	
	D. & W. (C & R)	491,200	} Estimated Residual Recur- rent Expenditure approx. \$207,000 p.a.
existing C.D. &	Local funds (C & R)	—	
\$623,000.			
Expenditure for per- sonnel and equip- ment 2,000.	Local funds (C)	—	Equipment \$60,000. Alterations to buildings \$150,000.
Residual Recur- rent expenditure \$220,000	Local funds (C)	—	
	Local funds	—	Unallocated.

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SCHEME	Source	Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.51	RE
		\$	
5. Leper Settlement, re-housing	Local funds (C)	36,500	
6. Mental Hospital (Inter-Territorial)	C.D. & W.(C) Local funds (R)	— —	Joint Insti Territories 60%.
7. Malaria Survey (Scheme R. 158)	C.D. & W. (C & R)	132,242	Joint Sch Territories Central A & W. fund
8. Water Supplies	Local funds (C)	17,000	Scheme Estimates Unallocated
TOTALS, MEDICAL AND HEALTH		676,942	

MISCELLANEOUS.

1. Geological Survey (Scheme D. 1109)	C.D. & W. Local funds (R)	730,941 —	Joint Sel Territories C.D. & V be met f cation of t Provision is a con recurrent extended
2. Government Housing (Scheme D. 1430)	C.D. & W.(C)	130,000	
3. Government Buildings	Local funds (C)	120,000	Scheme Estimates Unallocated

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MARKS.		Estimated Expenditure to 31.12.51		REMARKS.
		\$		
	ds			
	(C)	—		Kuching \$6,000,000
				Miri 500,000
tution for Borneo				Unallocated 1,500,000
Sarawak's share				<u>\$8,000,000</u>
eme for Borneo				
Cost met from				
Allocation of C.D.	V.	71,794	}	C.D. & W. expenditure met from Central Research
ds.	ds	7,903		
				Allocation of C.D. & W. funds.
Value in 1952				
\$3,850,000				
650,000	ds			
	(R)	—		
\$4,500,000	ds			
	(C)	—		
				Scheme Value in 1952
				Estimates \$175,000
				Unallocated 400,000
				<u>\$575,000</u>
	ds	—		
eme for Borneo		62,555	}	C.D. & W. expenditure met from Central Allocation of
Full cost shown.	ds	—		
V. expenditure to				C.D. & W. funds.
from Central Allo-				
C. D. & W. funds.				
under Local funds	ds	—	}	Scheme added by Resolution of Council Negri. C.D. & W. expenditure to be met from Central Allocation of
tribution towards	(C)	—		
expenditure under				C.D. & W. funds.
scheme.				
		1,123,193		
Value in 1952				
\$1,901,500				
1,098,500				
\$3,000,000				
		5,505,759		



ANNUAL REPORT

on

SARAWAK

1952

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Chapter I

GENERAL REVIEW OF THE YEAR

1952 was an eventful year in the history of Sarawak, unquestionably the most eventful since the Cession of the territory to the Crown.

In the early part of the year the sudden and tragic death of His Late Majesty King George VI evoked an expression of spontaneous and widespread grief throughout the territory, and members of all classes and communities were given an opportunity later of expressing their abiding loyalty to the Throne on the occasion of the Proclamation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second, whose accession to the Throne was proclaimed at various ceremonies throughout the country; these ceremonies were the first of their kind ever to be held in Sarawak.

One of the last honours bestowed by His Late Majesty before his death was the conferment of knighthood upon His Excellency the Governor, an honour which was received with pride and satisfaction by people throughout Sarawak. His Excellency was absent from the country on furlough for five months in the middle of the year and during that period the Chief Secretary, Mr. R. G. Aikman, was Officer Administering the Government.

Probably the most important event of the year—at any rate to the citizens of Kuching and Sibü—was the visit in October of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by her son the Duke of Kent. This was the first visit of a member of the Royal family to Sarawak. Her Royal Highness arrived in Kuching on the 14th of October from Singapore and during her three days' stay she attended a reception at Astana, two official dinner parties, made a motor car tour of the town of Kuching, inspected a parade of voluntary organisations at Batu Lintang, inspected the Teachers' Training College, visited the General Hospital, laid the foundation stone of the new Anglican Cathedral and witnessed a display of native dancing in front of the east side of the Secretariat buildings. The Duchess spent most of Thursday, 16th October, at Sibü, flying to and from that town in the Sunderland flying boat which had brought her to Sarawak. At Sibü Her Royal Highness walked from the wharf to the Residency, the path being lined by Dayak men and women in traditional dress, and at the Residency some sixty members of all communities were presented to her. After the reception was over Her Royal Highness drove round the kampongs and the

town, and finally her tour terminated at the Lau King Howe Hospital where she graciously opened the new Out-Patient Department. After lunching with the Resident, Her Royal Highness and party returned to Kuching in the afternoon. In the meantime, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent spent the 15th and 16th on a trip to Satang Island and Buntal. The Duchess was welcomed both in Sibuan and in Kuching with wholehearted and sincere demonstrations of affection and loyalty, and the drive through the brilliantly decorated streets of these towns was a most moving experience for all those who took part in it. In the words of His Excellency the Governor "Her Royal Highness left behind in Sarawak a gay and happy memory and a great example of unselfish public service which we will always remember and treasure".

Another distinguished visitor to Sarawak in this eventful year was His Grace the Archbishop of York, Dr. Cyril Garbett, who arrived in Kuching from North Borneo early in January. During his visit His Grace preached in St. Thomas's Cathedral, visited a Dayak longhouse at Merdang Gayam, and attended a reception given in his honour by H. E. the Governor. His visit was an undoubted success, and the dignity and kindly bearing of His Grace made a deep impression on all who met him.

One of the principal developments to which Government attaches the very greatest importance is the growth of Local Government throughout Sarawak. It is estimated that in 1952 there were some 240,000 people subject to the jurisdiction of Local Authorities, and that these Authorities managed and financed schools attended by more than 3,000 children. Furthermore, they contributed by way of grants-in-aid to schools run by Missions and other agencies some \$75,000 per annum. There are, at present, 17 Local Authorities throughout Sarawak, 13 of which are racial and 4 are mixed; these latter have jurisdiction over all races within their areas. The Mixed Local Authorities are the ones upon which the Local Government of the future will be patterned and it is the policy of Government to establish more and more of this type of Authority. The racial Authority has grave and lasting weaknesses and must be regarded as a temporary stage in the development of Local Government in Sarawak which will be replaced, as progress is made, by Local Governments with jurisdiction over all the people in a particular area. All the Mixed Local Authorities in 1952, doing well and it is hoped that the capability of members of Councils to shoulder the responsibilities of Local Government will be fully instilled.

His Excellency, in his annual report, made proposals for converting the constitution into line with the achieved. It is proposed that official, unofficial

would be 17 in number, of whom 14 would be ex-officio and 3 appointed by the Governor. The unofficial members would be 15 in number; of these 8 would be selected by Divisional Councils, 3 by the more progressive Urban District Councils, 2 by bodies representative of particular interests—for instance, Chambers of Commerce—and 2 would be nominated by the Governor to represent important interests which are excluded from the arrangements already mentioned. The 9 standing members whose membership is assured by Section 9 of the Constitution Ordinance would, of course, retain their seats. The important point of these proposals is that the Divisional Advisory Councils will have the responsibility and privilege of selecting persons to represent them on the Council Negri. The proposals for the constitution of the Supreme Council were that there should be, firstly, 3 ex-officio members—namely, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary; secondly, 3 members chosen from among themselves by the unofficial members of the Council Negri; thirdly, 2 members (who may or may not be official) appointed by the Governor. For the first time a direct obligation and responsibility would be laid upon the ordinary citizen of Sarawak to ensure that his chosen representatives are worthy of his confidence, and the constitution will provide a direct link between members of the smallest Local Authority through the Divisional Council to the Council Negri, and finally the Governor-in-Council. During 1953 it is expected that these proposals will be discussed throughout the country in all Local Authority and Advisory Councils, and in meetings in longhouses, kampongs and bazaars.

When the Estimates for 1952 were presented, a surplus of \$8,210,301 was anticipated, but largely as a result of the collection of arrears of Income Tax in 1952—which was \$12,455,000 more than the estimated amount—the actual surplus will now be in the region of \$19 million. This figure is based upon the Revenue for 1952 exceeding the original Estimate by approximately \$12,240,000 and the Expenditure being \$31,795,832 as compared with the original Estimate of \$31,795,832. It is estimated that the General Revenue Balance will amount to approximately \$60 million.

Gratification appears to be, it is necessary to make arrangements for years when the revenue falls short of the necessary when a considerable fluctuations in revenue and the consequent consent of the Council for large expenditure in

town, and finally her tour terminated at the Lau King Howe Hospital where she graciously opened the new Out-Patient Department. After lunching with the Resident, Her Royal Highness and party returned to Kuching in the afternoon. In the meantime, His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent spent the 15th and 16th on a trip to Satang Island and Buntal. The Duchess was welcomed both in Sibuluan and in Kuching with wholehearted and sincere demonstrations of affection and loyalty, and the drive through the brilliantly decorated streets of these towns was a most moving experience for all those who took part in it. In the words of His Excellency the Governor "Her Royal Highness left behind in Sarawak a gay and happy memory and a great example of unselfish public service which we will always remember and treasure".

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His Excellency, in his address to the Council Negri in December, made proposals for constitutional reform in order to bring the present constitution into line with political progress which has already been achieved. It is proposed that the Council Negri should consist of official, unofficial and standing members. The official members

would be 17 in number, of whom 14 would be ex-officio and 3 appointed by the Governor. The unofficial members would be 15 in number; of these 8 would be selected by Divisional Councils, 3 by the more progressive Urban District Councils, 2 by bodies representative of particular interests—for instance, Chambers of Commerce—and 2 would be nominated by the Governor to represent important interests which are excluded from the arrangements already mentioned. The 9 standing members whose membership is assured by Section 9 of the Constitution Ordinance would, of course, retain their seats. The important point of these proposals is that the Divisional Advisory Councils will have the responsibility and privilege of selecting persons to represent them on the Council Negri. The proposals for the constitution of the Supreme Council were that there should be, firstly, 3 ex-officio members—namely, the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Financial Secretary; secondly, 3 members chosen from among themselves by the unofficial members of the Council Negri; thirdly, 2 members (who may or may not be official) appointed by the Governor. For the first time a direct obligation and responsibility would be laid upon the ordinary citizen of Sarawak to ensure that his chosen representatives are worthy of his confidence, and the constitution will provide a direct link between members of the smallest Local Authority through the Divisional Council to the Council Negri, and finally the Governor-in-Council. During 1953 it is expected that these proposals will be discussed throughout the country in all Local Authority and Advisory Councils, and in meetings in longhouses, kampongs and bazaars.

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Gratifying though this final figure would appear to be, it is necessary to maintain a substantial reserve for bad years when the revenue falls short of expenditure, and this is particularly necessary when a revenue such as that of Sarawak is liable to considerable fluctuations owing to its dependence upon the price of rubber and the consequent yield from export duties. With the advice and consent of the Council Negri the Government is, in 1953, committed to large expenditure in order to expand its services to the public in almost every field of Government activity. Despite generous monetary assistance from H. M. Government in the United Kingdom, substantial funds have to be found from local revenue for this expenditure and it was, therefore,

found necessary to make substantial increases in customs duties on alcoholic liquors and tobacco, and to raise the rate of income-tax on companies. The former increases took effect from 17th November, 1952, and the latter will come into force on 1st January, 1953.

The aggregate value of the territory's external trade was \$820,000,000—\$75,000,000 down on the previous year, with an apparent trade balance of \$56,000,000. The large decrease in the trade balance, \$68,000,000, as compared with that of 1951 was due to the decline, in both volume and value, of rubber. It would have been reasonable to have expected this decline to have had a greater effect on the general prosperity of the country than it did, but, while rubber is still Sarawak's main industry, there are important secondary industries—sago, pepper and timber—which contributed greatly to maintaining a moderately high level of prosperity and resulted in a satisfactory trading year. The factors most responsible for the continued prosperity were pepper and timber. Timber is rapidly becoming an important item in the country's economy with exports for the year 80% over those of 1951. The Government's policy of encouraging interests in industries other than rubber has amply justified itself and has saved the territory from what might well have been a slump. Bazaar trade, while not as brisk as during 1951, was nevertheless profitable with perhaps the exception of the textiles business. Many small shops dealing mainly in textiles found themselves overstocked as a result of the boom of 1951, and towards the end of the year had to liquidate their stocks at greatly reduced prices and often below cost.

An interesting development in the introduction of light industries to Sarawak has been the establishing of a factory for the production of soaps, edible oils, fats and margarine.

Timber exports from Sarawak increased steadily during the year, reaching a record level of over 40,000 tons for the period July to September. The overseas timber markets have become more discriminating and the emphasis is now on quality rather than quantity. It is of interest to note that sawn timber is playing a more and more important part in the export trade. By the end of 1951 it represented only 27% of the total quantity exported; at the end of 1952 it was in excess of 40%. Our leading customer is the United Kingdom, with Hong Kong second, and "ramin" (*gonystylus bancanus*) at present the most popular export timber.

Up to the end of 1951 progress on the planned programme of development had been slower than had been hoped. Apart from the inevitable delays which must be encountered in the early stages of a development plan when projects must be investigated and schemes prepared, there has been a shortage of technical officers, labour and materials. In 1952 greater progress has been achieved

and by 1953 many schemes should be completed or nearing completion. An increasing number of technical officers have been appointed, equipment started to come forward and the labour position has eased. The difficulties have not all been overcome, but it is hoped that with the help of outside agencies some important capital works will be finished by the end of 1953.

Expenditure in 1952 will be considerably more than in 1951. This is accounted for in some instances by increased costs but the greater part is reflected in a larger programme undertaken during the year. An Appendix at page 158 of this Report shows the grants received from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, and the amounts expended both from these grants and under schemes financed from local funds. The expenditure under the Development Plan may be summarised as follows:—

	Actual Expen- diture to 31.12.51 \$	Estimated Expenditure in 1952 \$	Estimated Expenditure in 1953 \$
Colonial Development & Welfare Schemes ...	4,334,673	2,774,588	3,065,518
Other Development Plan Schemes ...	383,349	2,359,164	18,089,335
Development Plan Loan Programme ...	238,827	199,860	1,117,400

In the Development Plan the estimated cost of Priority A Schemes was put at \$56,160,170 and the estimated revenue for development is \$59,540,000. This left approximately \$3,379,000 which was theoretically available for other Priorities or for excesses on the estimated cost of the schemes in Priority A. It was pointed out that it was not possible to estimate closely and accurately all the schemes in the Plan at the time when the Plan was presented to the Development Board. There are likely to be excesses on some of the schemes and savings on others, and the nett position as it is estimated today is an increase of approximately \$1,600,000 on the cost of Priority A.

Few new agricultural projects were started during the year and the Department of Agriculture entered on a phase of development and consolidation of existing projects. The Department continues to concentrate most of its efforts at selected development centres around which group farming projects are generally being developed. There is some degree of specialisation at some centres, but the aim is to demonstrate as many aspects of the Department's work as possible at all centres.

Due to the rubber boom the acreage of padi decreased during the 1951/52 season, but the fall in the price of rubber and increasing realisation of the serious position with regard to the country's rice

supplies caused a great deal of the lost ground to be made up in the 1952/53 season.

The recovery of the Sarawak pepper trade has been most impressive. The export of pepper in 1952 reached 4,000 tons and was almost up to the record year of 1934. Prices have been maintained at a higher figure than was expected.

Demonstrations and nurseries of various cash crops continue to develop steadily at the agricultural development centres with assistance from Colonial Development and Welfare funds. An effort is being made to develop animal husbandry. Selected Kelantan cattle have been introduced, also selected Red Sindhi dairy cattle. The Australian Government gave a pedigree beef bull to the Government. The pure Middle White pigs and their crosses with local pigs continue to be successful and are already having an important effect on the local pig industry.

The development of farm mechanisation is progressing steadily. Progress is being achieved not so much with mechanical cultivation as with other aspects such as improved road and river farm transport, irrigation and water supply pumps, padi mills and sawmills. Experiments in the use of fertilisers continue and excellent responses are now being obtained on short term crops even on poor soils.

Progress has been made in the constitution of the permanent forest estate. During 1951 the area of demarcated forest was almost doubled and by the end of the year amounted to 6,400 square miles.

Progress can also be recorded in the improvement of communications. The Sibü airfield was completed and a scheduled service started on the 1st July 1952. Roads in the Kuching and Sibü districts have been reconstructed and work was proceeding on the main Bau to Kuching and the Kuching/Serian road. The survey of the new trunk road from Serian to Simanggang has been completed. A plan of port improvement for Sibü was drawn up and approved and work will commence in 1953.

Education services have expanded considerably during post-war years. The number of children in school in 1952 was 45,573 as compared with 42,000 in 1951. There has also been a satisfactory development of secondary education. A beginning was made with the teaching of science in secondary schools. A grant was approved from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to assist selected secondary schools with the capital expenditure required to build and equip science laboratories. A scheme for the award of overseas scholarships for degree and diploma courses is included in Sarawak's Development Plan, and paid for from local funds. Scholarships and fellowships have also been awarded under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, by the Australian and New Zealand Governments under their Technical Assistance Scheme, by the United Nations

Organisation and by the British Council. At the end of the year there were 30 Sarawak students studying overseas.

The travelling dispensaries of the Medical Department continued to operate, taking medical attention to remote areas. It is likely that, from experience gained, there may be modifications in the number and type of boats and engines to be used and of the areas to be served. During the year plans for a new and large Health Centre for the town of Kuching were completed and construction will start soon. The Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak provided funds for the building of a new Tuberculosis Clinic in Kuching. The World Health Organisation provided experts for a B. C. G. vaccination project and a malaria survey.

Sarawak participated in the Colombo Exhibition held in February, and this country's section formed part of the South East Asia Pavilion and attracted considerable interest. Notable features in the Sarawak section were the large relief map of the territories of Sarawak and Brunei, the large photograph of Dayak men and women, and the photograph showing the paucity of communications in the territory, whilst the brochure produced by the Natural Resources Board was considered to be first-rate. A most notable feature was the distribution of samples of Sarawak white pepper in small glass jars—a popular and unusual souvenir.

An event of great importance took place on the 23rd June when the new Oil Mining Lease between the Government of Sarawak and Sarawak Oilfields Ltd. was signed at Astana. The negotiations leading up to the signing of the new Lease have lasted for several years, and the principal features of the new Lease are that the Company has agreed to surrender 25% of the land area of Sarawak (all of which was covered by the old Indenture of the 19th March 1909) after 5 years, a further 25% after 10 years, and to reduce the area to 25% of the territory after 15 years. Royalty has been brought into line with modern practice by providing that the Company shall pay a percentage royalty basis on the value of the oil obtained; royalty on casing head spirit and natural gas sold has been introduced for the first time, and the minimum royalty has been raised to £10,000 per year. Under the terms of the new Lease the Company undertakes to spend £50,000 per year on exploration or oil mining operations whenever production is less than 40,000 tons per annum, and they have also agreed to accept liability for the recently introduced income tax on companies. The results of the negotiations, which were carried out in an atmosphere of co-operation and cordiality, have been to provide Sarawak with a modern form of Lease and very substantially increased revenue from the oil industry through increased royalty and the acceptance of income tax by Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.

It should be noted that the Company provides employment for nearly 2,000 persons, and by its activities in Sarawak contributes in no small manner to the economy of the country.

In August Sarawak had its first taste of banditry. On the night of the 5th and 6th August a detachment of Constabulary was carrying out an exercise in the 27th Mile area, investigating alleged threats of extortion by persons believed to be communists. On the same night at about midnight a small gang of individuals, including one woman, armed with automatic weapons, carried out a raid on the Batu Kitang Bazaar, firing shots, terrifying the inhabitants of the Bazaar, and extorting over \$4,000 from them. Early on the morning of the 6th an armed party, almost certainly the same as that which earlier carried out the raid at Batu Kitang, approached a police road block at the 27th Mile in a small motorcar. When ordered to stop by the police the individuals in the car suddenly opened fire, killing L/Cpl. Natu who was in charge of the small police detachment, wounding two constables, and then driving through the block. The police returned the fire and, although it is not certain whether any of the occupants of the car were wounded, the car itself was so damaged that it broke down and had to be abandoned farther down the road. There is little doubt, from the evidence available, that this gang—which was dressed in some sort of uniform and which had distributed communist inspired leaflets and used a five-star flag seal—was a unit of a subversive communist underground movement. Substantial rewards for the apprehension of the persons responsible for L/Cpl. Natu's murder were immediately offered by Government. The Officer Administering the Government, after consultation with the Supreme Council, promptly decided to declare a state of emergency in the First Division. This was announced on August 8th and thereafter various powers under the Emergency Regulations were taken by Government, and by a number of regulations made by the appropriate authorities under the Emergency Regulations, the Government took to itself powers which would enable it to deal more effectively with the situation.

Assistance from neighbouring British territories in South East Asia was speedy and generous. Items of equipment in which Sarawak was deficient were flown in by the R. A. F. from the Federation of Malaya and Singapore, and the North Borneo Government sent two platoons of police—also flown in by the R. A. F.—who did work of inestimable value in assisting the Sarawak Constabulary to keep up the patrols and activities which were necessary. These police returned to their own territory on 26th September when it was considered that the situation was well in hand.

Activities were not confined to the regular Constabulary alone and work of great value was done by Auxiliary Constables of all races some of whom spent long periods of great discomfort in patrol and other activities. The immediate results were that there was no

repetition of the original act of violence, and there can be no doubt that the gang—or gangs—concerned were forced by the extensive police activity in the Simanggang Road area either to leave that area—perhaps to leave Sarawak—but certainly to go underground and refrain from any illegal acts.

The morale of the people living in the area was rapidly restored and there was no evidence that the evil-doers had succeeded in dislocating the ordinary social and economic life of the people and to create the belief that the Sarawak Government was not able to give protection to its own people. The attitude of the bulk of the local population in the First Division was all that could be desired. The inconveniences arising from the application of the Emergency Regulations, some of which were relaxed before the end of the year, were endured without complaint; there was evidence that the action taken by Government received general support, and that there existed in the hearts of large numbers of individuals in the affected areas a strong desire to prevent any extension or expansion of the troubles which had already occurred and to assist any efforts intended to preserve peace and good order. The State of Emergency in the First Division was still in force at the end of the year.

In order to ensure that disturbances such as those already mentioned do not re-occur, and that if they do they can be dealt with speedily and effectively, it has been found necessary to strengthen the Police Force by way of expansion by approximately one-third and the creation within the Constabulary of a Field Force—a body which will be specially drawn up and equipped to deal with disturbances and the problems arising from militant political activities directed against the Government of Sarawak and its people. Plans were also made for the strengthening of that branch of the Constabulary which is concerned with the collection and assessment of information. Improvements in the conditions of service in the Constabulary by the introduction of new allowances and by a programme to provide for better housing and increased amenities for all branches of the Force, was decided upon.

The force of Sarawak Dayak trackers who have been at the disposal of the Government of the Federation of Malaya for the past 3½ years continued to operate in that territory during 1952, and towards the end of the year there were 301 Dayaks serving in the Federation; tribute has been paid by responsible authorities in that territory to the skill and courage of these Sarawak citizens. During 1953 it is likely that a more active role will be found for these men as a result of the experience gained by two experimental platoons operating as combat troops during the second half of 1952.

In July, for the first time in 20 years, an “Aum”—or assembly of Dayak chiefs—was held at Sibü. Residents, District Officers and Penghulus came from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Divisions, and the

meeting was formally opened by the Officer Administering the Government. The principal object of this impressive gathering was to consider the customary code of the Dayaks and a great deal of valuable work was accomplished. It is of interest to note that out of 63 Penghulus present only 7 were also present at the previous "Aum" in 1932.

As a result of long discussions between the representatives of Government and those of the two Staff Associations, Whitley Councils—representing the two main branches of the service—came into being during the year, and the establishment of these Councils is regarded as a step towards satisfactory relationships between the Government and its employees. Much useful work was accomplished by the Whitley Councils during the year.

A feature of the year in respect of the work of the Lands & Survey Department was the opening up of selected blocks of land in the 3rd Division—to the extent of some 25,000 acres—for new rubber planting by Chinese agriculturalists in the Lower Rejang and in the Batang Igan. This is in addition to the 29,000 acres in the Rejang Delta opened up to Chinese settlement in 1951. Whilst it is true to say that not all of this land is suitable for agriculture, it does contain some thousands of acres of good wet padi land. Government has, of course, been extremely careful to make the fullest investigation into native claims and requirements and to ensure that sufficient land remains for their use, after taking into consideration the need for forest and other reserves and also that adequate compensation can be assessed and paid.

Most of Sarawak and Brunei is extremely short of stone for road construction and road repairs, and the Geological Survey Department scored a resounding success by locating, at Sebuyau, a valuable deposit consisting of millions of tons of good quality granite readily accessible. A Quarry Engineer has been engaged with a view to the opening by Government of a large scale quarry at Sebuyau which will eventually supply granite to the whole of Sarawak, except the First Division, and it should also be possible for this quarry to produce sufficient stone to supply the requirements of the State of Brunei.

When one thinks of a quarry one immediately associates it with blasting operations, and the thought of blasting operations brings to mind the work of a contingent of Royal Engineers who were kindly made available to the Sarawak Government by the General Officer Commanding Singapore District, and who started work on the blasting of rocks in certain rapids in the Third Division. For many years representations have been made by up-river people that some of the more awkward rocks and boulders in rapids which they have to negotiate in order to get anywhere should be removed, but it has not hitherto been possible to find the necessary experts to do this on a reasonably large scale. The Royal Engineers party only worked for a very short time during the drier season of the year,

but it is evident from results already achieved that the work they are doing is of great value and is likely to render certain stretches of water less dangerous to lives and property than they have been in the past. Those people who live above the rapids are naturally extremely grateful to the Army for the assistance they have given in rendering the passage of these dangerous rapids less difficult for them.

During the year some progress was made in respect of the plans for the establishment of a Sarawak Broadcasting Service, and the Development Board—which sat in October—recommended that a modified scheme should be included in the Priority A group of projects in the Development Plan. A site has been selected and plans for buildings were reasonably well advanced by the end of the year. It is hoped to have a Pilot Service, which will only serve the town of Kuching itself and listeners within a radius of 15 miles, in operation by the end of June 1953 and the main Broadcasting Service is likely to come into operation in the first quarter of 1954.

Steady progress during the course of the year has been shown by the Co-operative Development Department and the number of Registered Societies has increased by twenty. One of the most interesting of these new societies is the Islam Meat Society in Kuching, and it is sad to think that this useful organisation may have to go into voluntary liquidation in 1953. It is good to know that the rural Foochow Chinese in the 3rd Division are showing a most welcome interest in co-operation. Other interesting developments include the Saribas Co-operative Hostel in Ban Hock Road in Kuching, the new Heng Hwa Chinese Fishing Settlement off the Pending Road, and the issue of an attractive and well prepared monthly magazine which first appeared in April and which is an excellent medium of co-operative education published in English, Malay and Sea Dayak.

Evidence of the growing importance of Sarawak in the eyes of the outside world was given by the elevation of the Head of the Roman Catholic Church in Sarawak from the status of Prefect Apostolic to that of Vicar Apostolic, and it was a source of great satisfaction to a great many Sarawak people when Mgr. John Vos was consecrated as the first Bishop of Kuching in the middle of the year.

The last quarter of the year was overshadowed by the loss this country sustained in the death of Sir Ivor Brace, the first Chief Justice of the Combined Judiciary of North Borneo, Sarawak and Brunei. Sir Ivor's death came as a great shock to his many friends in those territories.

It should be noted that during 1952 a Sarawak man gave great assistance to Malaya in their Badminton victory in the Thomas Cup. Ong Poh Lim is a former pupil of St. Thomas's School, Kuching, and may now be regarded as one of the leading badminton players in the world.

It was remarked at the beginning of this review that 1952 was the most eventful year Sarawak had had since the country was ceded to the Crown, and the recital of events of the year justifies the truth of that remark.

Chapter II

POPULATION

A full-scale census was conducted during 1947. The total population of Sarawak in 1947 thereby disclosed was 546,385.

The main indigenous cultural groups in Sarawak may be classified as Sea Dayak (or Iban), Malay, Melanau, Land Dayak, and a last group of other and indeterminate tribes comprising Kayans, Kenyahs, Bisayahs, Kedayans, Kelabits, Muruts and many others. The non-indigenous races include Europeans, Chinese, Indians and Javanese. In the census, indigenous people were defined as "those persons who recognise no allegiance to any foreign territory, who regard Sarawak as their homeland, who believe themselves to be a part of the territory, and who are now regarded as natives by their fellow men."

The following table shows the numerical proportion of each cultural group as determined by the 1947 census:—

Cultural group	Population in 1947	Percentage of total population
European ...	691	0.1%
Malay ...	97,469	17.9%
Melanau ...	35,560	6.5%
Sea Dayak ...	190,326	34.8%
Land Dayak ...	42,195	7.7%
Other Indigenous ...	29,867	5.5%
Chinese ...	145,158	26.6%
Other Non-Indigenous Asian ...	5,119	0.9%
	546,385	100.0%

The indigenes of Sarawak form 72.4% of the population. The Sea Dayak group is the largest and probably the most homogenous of the indigenous people. Very strong local variations appear in the Sea Dayak language, yet it is distinctive and well-recognised as a native language of Sarawak.

The Land Dayaks are mainly to be found in the First Division. The legendary home of these people is believed by many of them to

be "Gunong Sungkong" in West Borneo, and a close relationship is claimed and exists with people of the same culture in nearby villages in West Borneo. This kinship leads to some movement across the border.

The Malays are of mixed stock and probably are the least native of all the indigenous people. They are bound by the common tie of Mohammedanism and have been powerful along the coast for centuries. Their domination was intermittent and at times must have been almost non-existent, but it was sufficiently effective to leave an impression upon the pagan tribes of the seaboard.

Numerically the Chinese are the second most important group of people in Sarawak; economically they take first place and culturally their influence is second only to European. There is substantial evidence that Chinese have lived in parts of Sarawak for many hundreds of years.

The Melanaus are found in the coastal areas of the Third and Fourth Divisions, and are the principal cultivators of sago. At the present time they are intermediate between the Malays and the Pagan groups, in that some of them retain their Pagan customs and habits, while others have become Mohammedans.

The Kayans and Kenyahs live on the Baram River and the headwaters of the Rejang and Balui. They are thought to have come from the Batang Kayan across the Indonesian border.

Other indigenous races are the Muruts, Bisayas, Kelabits, nomadic Punans, Kedayans and Dusuns from North Borneo.

Immigration

Control of immigration was tightened during 1952 by reducing to 12 years the age limit of alien children coming to Sarawak to join their parents who are Sarawak residents. Until October the age limit had been 14 years of age. The reduction to 12 years brings the practice in Sarawak into line with that in neighbouring British territories.

An additional Passport Examination Officer was engaged and is now stationed at Sibu as, during the year, Malayan Airways Ltd. began to operate their air services between Singapore and North Borneo by routing their aircraft through Sibu in addition to Kuching.

There was little or no trading by small craft between Indonesia and Sarawak during 1952. In 1951 there had been a very marked decrease in this trade over the previous year. Singapore vessels continued to call regularly at Kuching, Sarikei, Binatang, Sibu and Miri and, for the first time, a regular cargo service operated by two vessels began between Hong Kong and Sarawak, calling most frequently at ports in the Rejang River during the latter part of the year. Large vessels called regularly at Tanjong Mani in the Rejang,

mainly to load timber for export. As this place is not an authorised port of entry no passengers are allowed to land in Sarawak from vessels which anchor here.

In 1952 some commercial enterprises were started in Sarawak and it was found essential to allow the immigration of skilled technicians from Hong Kong to enable them to commence operations. The Matang Vegetable Oil Manufacturing Co., producing vegetable oils from raw materials secured locally, which is operating off the Pending Road, brought in a number of skilled technicians to operate the plant and manufacture oil. The establishment of the new newspaper *Sarawak Vanguard* also necessitated the immigration of some technicians from Hong Kong for a temporary stay. As local men are trained to do the jobs these visitors will be returned to their place of recruitment. A number of teachers also came in from Hong Kong to lessen the great shortage of qualified teachers in Chinese schools throughout Sarawak.

Immigration to and from Sarawak during 1952 was as follows :—

			Arrivals	Departures
Chinese	...	...	5069	4702
European	...	...	1649	1512
Malay	...	...	687	685
Melanaus	...	...	69	73
Sea Dayak	...	...	314	594
Land Dayak	...	...	—	—
Other Indigenous	...	...	25	24
Other Asian	...	...	590	497
Total :—			<u>8,403</u>	<u>8,087</u>

Chapter III

OCCUPATION, WAGES AND LABOUR ORGANISATION

The vast majority of the population continue to be engaged in agricultural pursuits. The Dayaks, Kayans and Kenyahs are farmers employing traditional methods of agriculture and engaged mainly in planting padi. Approximately 51% of the total population of Sarawak works at some gainful occupation and of these 45% of the workers are employed in some form of agriculture. Many have some other form of part time occupation such as the extraction of jungle produce, a little fishing and spasmodic rubber production. The Melanaus, a coastal people, are mainly engaged in working sago and in fishing.

Agriculture also ranks first in the occupation of the Chinese; they are to a large extent pepper and rubber planters. There are 53 saw-mills now operating and small local factories (mostly Chinese) produce arrack, matches, pottery, bricks, vermicelli and a variety of other products. The retail trade of the country is almost entirely in the hands of the Chinese, as is also a large proportion of the import and export trade, although an increasing number of European firms are active in this field.

The Sarawak Oilfields Ltd., and the British Malayan Petroleum Company, with headquarters at Seria, are the largest employers of labour in Sarawak and the State of Brunei. During 1952, there were on the average 6149 skilled and unskilled men in the labour force, including employees under contractors; of these 1585 were Chinese, 2573 Malays, 670 Indians, 1096 Dayaks and 225 others. Sago production, logging, dock work and distribution of imported goods make up practically the whole of the rest of the field of organised employment.

A very large proportion of the women of Sarawak do some form of work outside the house, and household duties among the interior people are reduced to elementary cooking and the care of the children.

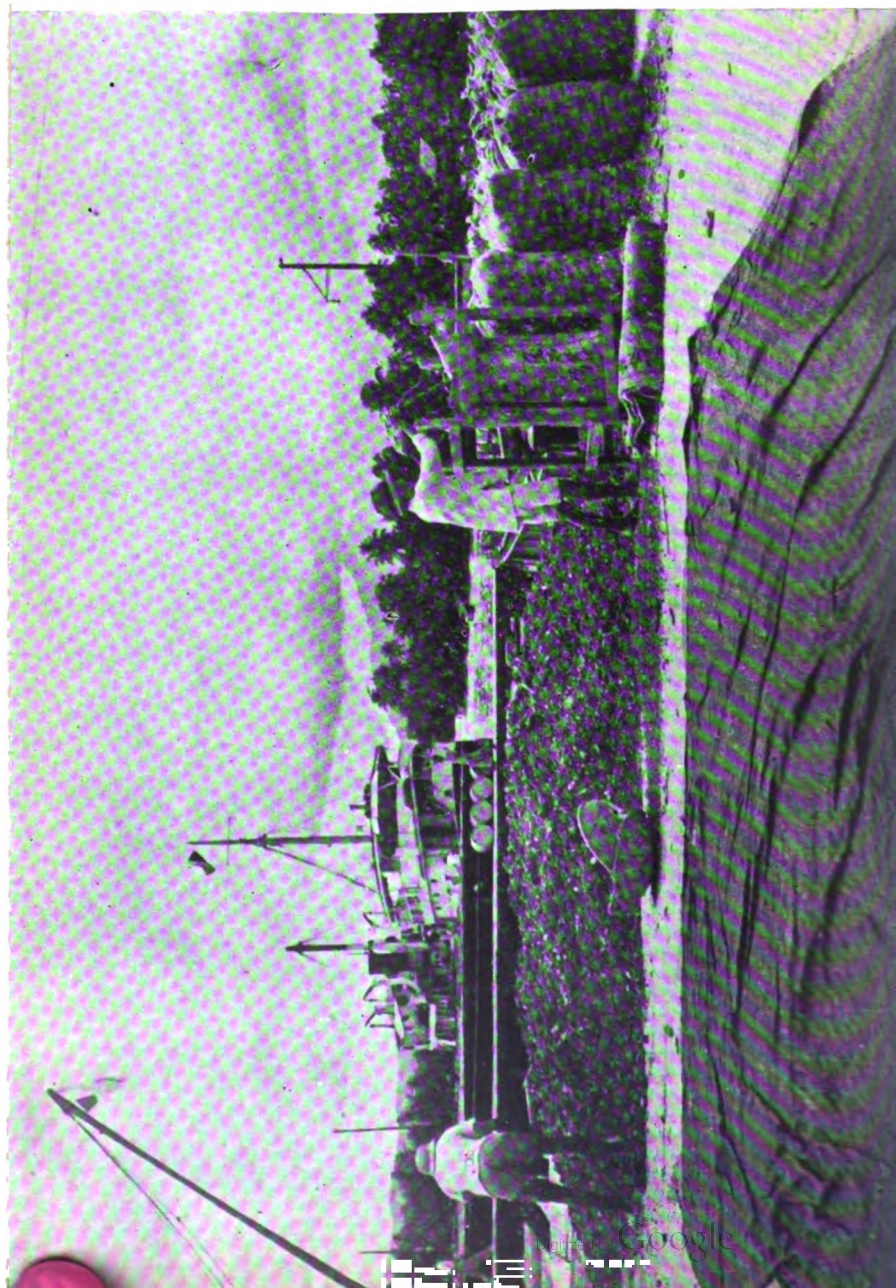
With the general expansion of trade, the year has been a hard one for many industrial concerns because of the difficulty of obtaining labour. There has been a growing demand for skilled and unskilled labour in the timber and oil industrial undertakings and 16 skilled labourers were brought in from Burma for the former. Proposals to recruit labour from India and Hong Kong for the oilfields have

Fisheries—Melan-
fishermen gathering
up the 'anchau'
seine net on the
Sarawak coast near
Mukah



For the Export Mar-
ket—Damar being
bagged on a Kuching
wharf





been under consideration. With the exception of four European owned estates, there are no acute shortages of labour in the rubber industry, since it consists principally of small concerns often based on the family as a unit, where payment is on a profit sharing basis in good times, and where external labour is not employed at all in bad times. Wages of tappers engaged in European owned estates have increased, the reported rate at the end of the year (average earning) being \$3.42 per day. Wages in the sago industry decreased to \$2.73 a day. Basic rates in the oilfields remained at \$2.85, \$4.25 and \$5.80 a day for unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour. The cost of living has risen 14% throughout the country during 1952.

The Secretary for Chinese Affairs is also the Protector of Labour, and District Officers are also Deputy Protectors of Labour.

Workers are protected by the Labour Protection Ordinance and the Labour Conventions Ordinance. The former provides protection in matters of health conditions, the truck system, dismissal without notice and agreements to labour, and permits inspection of places of employment. There is machinery for making complaints by labourers to the Protector, who has power to make orders in respect of conditions of work, wages, notice of termination of work and the definition of a day's work or task. The Ordinance was amended in 1950, to reduce the maximum working day from nine to eight hours and to empower the Protector to call for quarterly returns from employers.

The Labour Convention Ordinance applies to Sarawak a number of International Conventions dealing with labour, industrial undertakings, and child and female labour. There is no regulated system of inspection of places of employment or of reporting on inspections nor will this be possible until staff can be recruited for this function, but District Officers regularly visit all important undertakings in their districts and take such action as appears appropriate. Detailed conditions affecting recruitment of labour for employment outside Sarawak have been drawn up for application by means of a licensing system in conformity with the principles of the relevant International Conventions.

The Labour Ordinance, 1951, came into force on 1st July, 1952.

The Weekly Holidays Ordinance, 1952 was enacted during the year, and will come into force on such date as the Governor may by notification in the Government Gazette appoint.

The Registration of Workmen Ordinance came into force on 1st August 1952.

The number of registered Trade Unions remained unchanged at eighteen. They are developing satisfactorily. The Officers of the Unions are in close touch with the Protector of Labour.

A Workmen's Compensation Ordinance came into force on 1st April, 1950, and three agreements have been made under it.

Chapter IV

PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION

Revenue and Expenditure

Comparative figures of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1951 and 1952 are given below :

	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Surplus \$
Actual, 1951	47,349,364	22,517,206	24,832,158
Revised Estimates, 1952	51,764,769	31,795,832	19,968,937

The estimated General Revenue Balance at the end of 1952 was \$60,367,743.

REVENUE

The main heads of Revenue are as follows :

Part I—Revenue

Head of Revenue	Actual 1951	Revised Estimate 1952
ORDINARY REVENUE	\$	\$
Customs	36,951,189	24,000,000
Licences, Taxes and Internal Revenue	1,542,749	1,248,830
Fees of Court or Office, etc. ...	908,928	403,740
Departmental Services	581,364	494,720
Reimbursements	195,145	299,385
Land	527,418	464,675
Forests	486,733	800,000
Posts and Telegraphs	584,950	626,000
Marine	174,702	173,715
Municipal (Outstations)	464,078	179,665
Revenue from Government Property	236,459	739,450
Interest	1,021,001	2,018,490
Income Tax	233,819	18,855,000
Municipal (Kuching)	185,264	484,995
	[44,093,799]	[50,788,665]
EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE		
Land Sales	334,198	203,000
Loan Repayments	126,986	203,200
War Damage Compensation ...	1,444,381	569,904
Transfer of Sarawak Currency Fund Surplus (part)	1,350,000	—
	[3,255,565]	[976,104]
TOTAL ...	47,349,364	51,764,769

Part II—Revenue

<i>Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Fund</i>	<i>Actual 1951</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1952</i>
	<i>\$</i>	<i>\$</i>
Grants and Loans under Colonial Development and Welfare Acts ...	1,461,818	2,874,588
Contributions from accumulated surplus revenue balances for Development Plan Schemes ...	5,500,429	1,000,000
Transfer from Currency Fund Surplus (Part) ...		1,000,000
Contributions from annual revenue for Development Plan Schemes ...	400,000	400,000
Loans to be raised ...	—	—
By transfer of the Rajah Vyner Brooke Education Fund ...	428,571	
TOTAL REVENUE EARMARKED FOR PLAN SCHEMES ...	[7,790,818]	[5,274,588]
Contributions from annual revenue for major capital expenditure ...	3,374,135	3,100,000
Contributions from accumulated surplus revenue balances for major expenditure ...	362,000	—
Revenue from sales, etc. ...	—	20,000
	[3,736,135]	[3,120,000]
TOTALS ...	11,526,953	8,394,588

EXPENDITURE

The heads of Expenditure are as follows :

Part I—Expenditure

Head of Expenditure	Actual 1951	Revised Estimate 1952
Governor	\$ 93,199.10	158,405
Rajah's Dependants	128,633.11	123,800
Administration, Divisional and District	1,752,762.58	2,107,453
Agriculture	514,920.69	647,169
Audit	69,631.57	92,379
Chinese Affairs, Immigration, Labour, etc.	99,991.00	175,600
Civil Aviation	65,324.32	186,129
Constabulary	1,756,879.21	2,449,330
Contributions to Development, Welfare and Reconstruction Fund	3,774,135.00	4,000,000
Co-operative Development	83,012.75	102,730
Defence and Internal Security	66,746.65	200,000
Education	564,752.32	750,659
Forests	248,287.99	275,858
Judicial	153,470.84	215,260
Kuching Boys' Home	18,608.40	29,835
Land and Survey	901,303.35	1,260,907
Legal	46,652.74	53,756
Local Authorities	276,424.50	411,020
Marine	510,645.78	893,124
Medical	2,064,975.40	2,930,395
Miscellaneous Services	1,069,451.09	665,903
Kuching Municipality	410,046.35	952,955
Municipal, First Division (Bau)	8,710.35	17,695
Municipal, Third Division (Sarikei and Binatang)	132,380.96	75,015
Municipal, Fourth Division (Miri)	69,433.19	112,671
Museum	61,065.35	47,064
Pensions and Gratuities	927,592.84	1,154,050
Posts and Telegraphs	690,869.33	894,994
Printing	355,059.36	396,563
Prisons	246,400.96	303,600
Public Works Department	879,237.29	947,758
Public Works Recurrent	674,106.99	851,960
Public Works Non-recurrent	1,030,086.04	2,095,287
Registration of Births and Deaths	3,572.32	28,839
Secretariat	370,142.31	594,052
Trade and Customs	598,651.94	661,413
Treasury	274,610.47	377,133
War Damage Claims Commission	1,476,237.44	4,555,071
Survey of Ships	3,600.80	—
Loss on Sales of Investments	45,594.06	—
TOTAL	\$22,517,206.74	31,795,832

Part II—Expenditure

<i>Head of Expenditure</i>		<i>Auctal 1951</i>	<i>Revised Estimate 1952</i>
Class I	Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes ...	4,334,673	2,774,588
Class II	Other Development Plan Schemes ...	383,349	2,359,164
Class III	Development Plan Loan Programme ...	238,827	199,860
Class IV	Other Development and Reconstruction Major Works and Services ...	3,388,664	4,076,592
Total ...		8,345,513	9,410,204

Public Debt

Sarawak has no public debt

*Assets and Liabilities*STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT
31st DECEMBER, 1952**LIABILITIES***Previous year*

\$				\$
1,616,476.06	Deposits	...	...	2,445,988.16
6,210,959.81	Special Funds	...	...	14,561,752.36
737,337.04	Current Accounts	...	...	887,000.43
1,523,940.17	Trading Account—Food Control	...	...	—
7,772.54	Allotments	...	...	3,431.25
24,247,662.24	General Revenue Balance	...	...	41,398,805.07
<hr/>				<hr/>
34,344,147.86				59,296,977.27
<hr/>				<hr/>

ASSETS*Previous year*

\$					\$
3,747,847.70	Cash	...	...	...	3,529,794.39
917,509.37	Fixed Deposit with Chartered Bank, Kuching	...	...	...	1,216,600.89
13,002,857.14	Joint Colonial Fund	...	...	...	22,285,714.29
13,484,397.14	Investments at Market Value	...	...	...	26,711,063.36
643,439.83	Investments, Special Funds, at Mar- ket Value	...	...	...	722,293.20
—	Trading Account—Food Control	...	...	...	1,422,517.04
667,887.48	Advances	...	...	...	1,220,913.55
30.00	Imprests	...	...	...	—
1,011,416.55	Current Accounts	...	...	...	1,569,602.91
232,106.52	Drafts and Remittances	...	...	...	316,677.20
582,939.73	Remittances between Chests	221,352.71
53,716.40	Suspense	80,447.73
<hr/>					<hr/>
34,344,147.86					59,296,977.27
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Customs Tariff

The Customs Tariff is divided into two parts, namely—Import Duties which include duties on liquor, tobacco, petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, salt, tea, soap, textiles, electrical and wireless apparatus, vehicles, timber, furniture, soap, cosmetics and perfumery; and Export Duties on rubber, sago, pepper, jelutong, illipe nuts, copra, damar, fish (dried and salted) and birds' nests.

The Import Duties on liquor, cigarettes, cigars and tobacco were increased on 17th November, 1952 (see Chapter VI page 32)

EXCISE, STAMP DUTIES AND OTHER TAXES

Excise Duty

An Excise duty is levied on local manufactures of arrack, certain wines and matches.

Stamp Duty

Stamp Duties are imposed on all documents required to be stamped under the provisions of the Stamp Ordinance (Cap. 17), and include a stamp duty on Bills of Exchange, Bank Cheques, Affidavits, Agreements, Contracts, Declarations of Trust and Instruments creating an Annuity.

Income Tax

Income Tax is at present charged, levied and collected only in respect of the incomes of companies incorporated or registered under any law or charter in force in Sarawak or elsewhere. In 1952 such tax was levied at the rate of twenty per centum on every dollar of the chargeable income of the company for the year of assessment, but with effect from 1st January, 1953, this rate will be increased to thirty per centum.

Trade Licence Fees

The Trades Licences Ordinance is a corollary to the Income Tax Ordinance and is designed to extend a simple form of direct taxation, by way of trades licence fee, to certain sections of the community. The fees are to be paid by the different categories of businesses and vary considerably according to the nature of the business. They range from \$2,500 for a licence to carry on the business of a banker, to \$50 for a licence to carry on the business of a retail trader not engaged in any import trade. Lesser fees are levied in rural areas.

Head and Door Tax

The system of Malay and Dayak Head and Door Tax current during the rule of the Rajahs of Sarawak has been continued. In areas where Local Treasuries have been instituted the tax collected is paid over, in full, to the Local Authority. The "door" tax is

equivalent to what is called "hut" tax in some territories, the "door" being the apartment in a Dayak long house occupied by a single family. The annual revenue from these combined taxes is approximately \$75,000.

Entertainment Tax

A tax is charged on all payments for admission to any entertainment.

Estate Duty

Estate Duty is charged upon all estates the value of which exceeds \$1,000 and the rates now in force are as follows:—

where the value of the estate exceeds :

\$ 1,000 but does not exceed	\$ 3,000	...	1	per cent
3,000	"	5,000	...	1½ "
5,000	"	7,500	...	2½ "
7,500	"	10,000	...	3½ "
10,000	"	20,000	...	5 "
20,000	"	40,000	...	7½ "
40,000	"	70,000	...	10 "
70,000	"	100,000	...	15 "
over 100,000			...	20 "

Chapter V

CURRENCY AND BANKING

Currency

Since 1945 Malayan currency only has been issued in Sarawak. No new issue of Sarawak currency is intended. Until 31st December, 1952, the following currencies were legal tender in Sarawak :

Malayan

Sarawak

British North Borneo (Chartered Company).

By virtue of the Currency Ordinance, 1951, Sarawak and British North Borneo (Chartered Company) notes and coins are being withdrawn from circulation and ceased to be legal tender after 31st December, 1952. With effect from 1st January, 1953, the only notes and coins which will be legal tender in Sarawak will be those which are issued by the Board of Commissioners of Currency, Malaya and British Borneo.

At the 31st December, 1952, there was \$31,760,956 of Malayan currency in circulation and \$816,901 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$313,984 in notes and \$502,917 in coins. There was a decrease of \$6,950,000 Malayan currency in circulation during the year. \$781,141 of Sarawak currency, composed of \$647,460 in notes and \$133,681 in coins, was withdrawn during the same period.

Banking

Banking facilities are provided by the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, in Kuching, Sibü and Miri and the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation in Kuching. In addition, there are four small Chinese Trading Banks in Sarawak: the Bian Chiang Bank, the Kwong Lee Bank, the Wah Tat Bank and the Hock Hua Bank.

Chapter VI

COMMERCE

The pattern of commerce in the country in 1952 was not markedly different from that in previous years. Generally speaking, the commerce of the country is conducted by:

- (i) the agency houses, the numbers of which are small but increasing and
- (ii) the Chinese merchants, of which there are many.

The Agency Houses: The most important are the leading European companies, but there are also Chinese firms holding valuable agencies. These houses import either from Great Britain, Singapore, or from other countries, proprietary articles for which they are the sole distributors. They hold a number of such important agencies as buyers for their own account, but in other cases they undertake more the functions of a branch office of their principals (the marketing organisations of the great combines). In addition to the sale of goods these firms conduct insurance and other business, and engage in the purchase and export of produce in competition with the Chinese merchants. They also act as agents and secretaries for the few large rubber estates that exist and carry on other activities which come, more properly, under the heading of "production" e. g., in the timber business.

The Chinese Merchants: The merchants may be said to engage in the wholesale and retail distribution of goods and the purchase of local produce. Not all of the firms trading under Chinese names are composed solely of Chinese members, though this is generally so. There are a number of Indian merchants trading almost exclusively in textiles.

Since the trade of Sarawak is very closely linked with that of Singapore, comparatively few consignments of goods arrive in the country direct from Great Britain, Australia or other sources, i. e., upon a through bill of lading (and even this would normally necessitate transshipment in Singapore). Most of the commodities imported are drawn from bulk supplies held by Singapore merchants, or from the large Singapore distribution depots. Similarly most of the general produce of the country finds its way to Singapore for sorting, grading, bulking and re-export. Shipments of sago and rubber to other countries however are frequent, and most of the territory's

exports of oil and timber are shipped to places further away than Malaya; Hong Kong and Great Britain having now replaced Australia as the major immediate destinations of the latter commodity.

The import of goods from Great Britain and other distant places is left almost entirely to the few European firms, but speaking generally the whole trade of the country passes, at one stage or other, through the Chinese merchants, who carry on what might be described as a "small shop" trade. In the larger towns and bazaars there are shops engaged solely in the sale of goods for cash (or more often on credit—the system in almost universal use throughout the country), but many are to be found that combine the purchase of rubber and other produce with the sale of sundry goods and Chinese groceries, if so ordinary a term can be given to the great variety of oriental foodstuffs they display: sharks' fins, birds' nests, salted squids, prawn paste and dried fish vie with the weird and pungent fruits of the East, spices, and all kinds of vegetables, fresh, dried and preserved. Often the small bazaar shop keeps stocks of every commodity its customers could possibly need, a system well suited to the practice of "tying" customers to the shop by extensive credit, and frequently resulting in there being several shops side by side all offering for sale a virtually similar display. Often, too, in the up-country bazaars the Chinese merchant must provide lodging in his shophouse for his Dayak and other customers: he is their host, their banker, and their universal supplier.

The more important shops in the towns are usually linked with associated firms in Singapore, which keep them supplied with goods and receive their produce. Similarly the firms in Sarawak have their associates in up-river and coastal bazaars. These they supply with goods. In return they receive the rubber, pepper, and jungle produce obtained by sale or barter. This jungle produce consists chiefly of rattan cane, damar and various types of guttas, of which jelutong is employed in the manufacture of chewing gum, and such piquant items as dragon's blood and ant-eater skins which are more interesting than important. It is not unlikely that the handles of the cricket bats used by, for example, the great Sir Donald Bradman are made of rattan cane imported into Australia from Sarawak.

Most of this jungle produce comes from remote districts where the needs of the natives which they cannot and do not provide for themselves are very few; but the up-river Chinese trader knows how to cater for the whims and fancies of the local people, who may set their hearts on any object outside their natural partiality for gold and silver ornament. The other things they venerate vary with local tribal custom, and amongst these is a certain type of earthenware jar, large, glazed and unlike in appearance, and brass gongs. Shot-guns and outboard motors are universally esteemed, both for their utility and the prestige they bring.

Very little weaving is now done locally, so that imported cloth has become almost a necessity. Apart from this, in some places far from the towns very little more than oils and salt for lighting and cooking are really needed by the natives except when the local padi harvest fails, or is short, but it is interesting to note how great a variety of goods is normally to be found even in the remotest bazaar: so wide are the ramifications of this "small shop" trade.

Some Chinese firms carry on an extensive business in the purchase of pepper and sago flour for export, and these are in the nature of specialized trades. The Department of Trade and Customs grades pepper and sago for export and ascertains the moisture content.

Pepper production was on the decline before the Japanese invasion, because of the great element of speculation as to the price the crop would fetch. During the Japanese occupation pepper was abandoned altogether, but in the past Chinese merchants have financed the pepper gardeners by a system of "grub-staking", and they are again doing so now. Even the Dayaks in some areas are now growing pepper, being quick to realise the economic advantages in comparison with rubber.

External Trade

The aggregate value of the external trade of the country for the year 1952 was \$821,509,270 as compared with \$892,094,893 for the year 1951, and \$78,415,599 for 1940, the last full year before the Japanese occupation.

This total is made up as follows :

			1952
Exports	...	...	\$438,563,317
Imports	...	...	382,945,953
Favourable Trade Balance			\$ 55,617,364

Trade Balance

The apparent favourable trade balance of \$55,617,364 does not, however, show a very clear picture in view of the fact that in the total exports of \$438,563,317 exports and re-exports of petroleum account for no less than \$307,060,951.

Crude oil is piped to the refinery in Sarawak from the adjoining territory of Brunei, the value of such imports in 1952 being \$270,684,254. Crude oil from wells in Sarawak (now only a comparatively small quantity) is also treated at the same refinery, and both crude and refined petroleum are included in the total value of exports.

Disregarding the value of imports and exports resulting from the crude oil won in the State of Brunei and in Sarawak itself, the favourable trade balance for 1952 would be \$19,240,667. This compares with \$84,230,914 for 1951, and is made up as follows :

Exports ...	...	...	\$131,502,366
Imports ...	...	...	112,261,699
			<u>\$ 19,240,667</u>

While the figure of \$55,617,364 can be regarded as an overstatement of the true trade balance, so also may \$19,240,667 be regarded as too modest, in that it does not take into account such production of oil as there was in Sarawak.

The large decrease in the trade balance, \$68,986,615, as compared with that of 1951 was due to the decline in both the volume and value of rubber exported. It would have been reasonable to have expected this decline to have had a greater adverse effect on the general prosperity of the territory than it did, but, while rubber is still the main industry, the secondary industries, sago, pepper and timber which the Government has encouraged over the last few years, contributed greatly to maintaining a moderately high level of prosperity and saved the country from what might well have been a slump.

Imports

The declared value of imports for 1952 was \$382,945,953 made up as follows :

		as compared with	
	1952	1951	1940
Foodstuffs ...	\$ 48,182,330	\$ 51,513,562	\$ 9,770,805
Textiles, wearing apparel, etc. ...	6,246,300	13,933,150	2,796,708
Petroleum, crude and refined ...	275,391,485	267,067,229	8,844,626
Tobacco ...	6,549,444	9,654,841	2,556,131
Manufactured goods and sundries ...	46,576,394	41,576,675	8,850,609
	<u>\$382,945,953</u>	<u>\$383,745,457</u>	<u>\$32,818,879</u>

It is remarkable that with such a large decrease in the values of exports the level of imports should have remained so high, and points to a high standard of living throughout the year.

Bazaar trade while not as brisk as during 1951 was nevertheless profitable with perhaps the exception of the textile business. This branch of business suffered indirectly from the virtual closing of the

Indonesian and Thailand markets to the Singapore entrepot trade. Singapore textile merchants, with large stocks on their hands which would normally have gone to the Indonesian and Thailand markets, diverted quantities of textiles, on a consignment basis, to Sarawak. Local merchants, already well stocked as a result of over-buying during the 1950—1951 boom, soon found themselves over-stocked, and towards the end of the year had to liquidate stocks at greatly reduced prices and often below cost.

The cost of certain basic foodstuffs, sugar and salt, showed a reduction compared with that in 1951, while rice, flour and milk again increased. The respective declared values were:

	1952	1951
Rice ...	\$ 561.71 per ton	\$ 415.65 per ton
Flour ...	469.56 " "	408.77 " "
Sugar ...	586.25 " "	671.46 " "
Salt ...	60.90 " "	73.94 " "
Milk ...	1,545.60 " "	1,500.91 " "
The 1952 value of Rice was 5.88 times that of 1940.		
" " " "	Flour " 3.93	" " " "
" " " "	Sugar " 3.59	" " " "
" " " "	Salt " 1.25	" " " "
" " " "	Milk " 3.14	" " " "

Decreases in the quantities imported in 1952 as compared with 1951 occurred in cigarettes, brandy, gin, still wines, beer, bicycles, sporting guns, outboard motors, sewing machines and cosmetics, indicating the end of the period of carefree spending.

Exports

The f. o. b. value of exports for 1952, \$438,563,317, was made up as under:

	1952	as compared with	
		1951	1940
Petroleum, crude and refined ...	\$307,060,951	\$303,186,679	\$11,446,818
Rubber ...	65,182,029	158,865,402	26,167,140
Sago flour ...	5,954,774	7,988,232	2,184,997
Pepper ...	33,031,835	17,925,184	362,569
Jelutong ...	2,107,951	2,310,331	775,209
Various guttas ...	236,785	160,662	145,930
Damar ...	738,564	613,829	88,688
Copra ...	1,106,541	2,654,196	70,629
Timber, sawn and logs ...	8,925,910	4,727,834	89,840
Sundries ...	14,217,977	9,917,087	4,438,587
	<u>\$438,563,317</u>	<u>\$508,349,436</u>	<u>\$45,770,407</u>

Exports of rubber amounted to 31,471 tons in 1952 compared with 42,521 in 1951. The drop in quantity was due mainly to the lower ruling price of rubber during the year; many producers found it uneconomical to continue tapping at the high rate of the previous years. Although by far the largest proportion of these exports was, as in previous years, shipped with Singapore as the only declared destination, the quantity shipped on through bills of lading to the United Kingdom was double that of 1951, and exports to other European countries were maintained.

Exports of sago flour fell only slightly short of 1951, the total quantity being 22,620 tons of which 18,000 tons went to the Great Britain and 4,000 tons to Holland, the latter, it is believed, for further processing and then onward shipment to Great Britain. The standard of quality was maintained at a satisfactory level.

Timber is rapidly becoming an important item in the economy of Sarawak with the export for the year, 98,309 tons, 80% above that of 1951. 40,856 tons went to Hong Kong, 35,773 to Great Britain and 9,110 to Australia.

The rapid recovery of the pepper industry since the war has been remarkable. The total exports for the year, 4,012 tons, are only a little short of the peak year, 1934. A new feature of the Sarawak pepper industry has been the production of a heavy type of black pepper. This was brought about by the narrow price margin between white pepper and this type of black. Producers, especially those who were not fortunate enough to have the facilities to produce a high quality of white pepper, found it more to their advantage to produce black pepper. Fifty per cent of the total pepper exported during the year was black; in previous years it used to be about ten per cent.

As compared with 1951, exports of petroleum (crude and refined) rose from 4,947,598 tons to 4,951,942 tons. It is not possible, for the reason explained above under the heading "trade balance", to assess the true value of these exports to the country's economy. Crude oil won in Sarawak amounted to 49,944 long tons as against 51,708 long tons in 1951.

General

With the development of the timber trade, particularly in the Rejang River area, the use of Tanjong Mani near the mouth of the Rejang River as a loading point has further increased. 49 vessels called there during the year as compared with 33 during 1951.

During 1952 the first regular steamship service began between Hong Kong and Sarawak ports. Notable imports by this route were sugar, stone and sundries. Exports were mainly timber from the Rejang.

Customs Revenue

The total customs revenue for 1952 amounted to \$23,205,400 made up as follows :

		as compared with	
	1952	1951	1940
Export duties ...	\$12,813,569	\$23,128,777	\$1,278,254
Import duties ...	10,391,831	12,338,783	2,252,028
	<u>\$23,205,400</u>	<u>\$35,467,560</u>	<u>\$3,530,282</u>

The very large drop in customs revenue was due to the decrease in the quantity and value of rubber exported during the year. The duty from this source collected during 1952 was \$7,677,544 as compared with \$19,405,195 in 1951. The export duty on rubber is on a sliding *ad valorem* scale.

Tariffs

The only alteration to the customs tariffs during the year was made in November when the import tariff rates on intoxicating liquors and tobacco were increased by 20% and 25% respectively. The import duty on the native-type tobaccos smoked by the poorer classes of the community was not increased.

Excise

There was little change from the previous year in the excise position, the sources of this revenue still being the same three distilleries and the match factory. Collections were, however, very disappointing and excise revenue dropped from \$841,958 in 1951 to \$606,605 in 1952. One reason for this seems to have been the over-production of each distillery as it first came into operation and the consequent flooding of the market but it may also be that illicit distilling has been on the increase. That a very great deal of illicit distilling goes on has been amply proved during the last year. Information is continually received of such stills and in almost every case the information has led to the discovery of a still and its consequent destruction. But, though everything possible has been done with the staff at the disposal of the Department, it seems clear that illicit distilling continues unabated all over the country, causing a great loss of revenue.

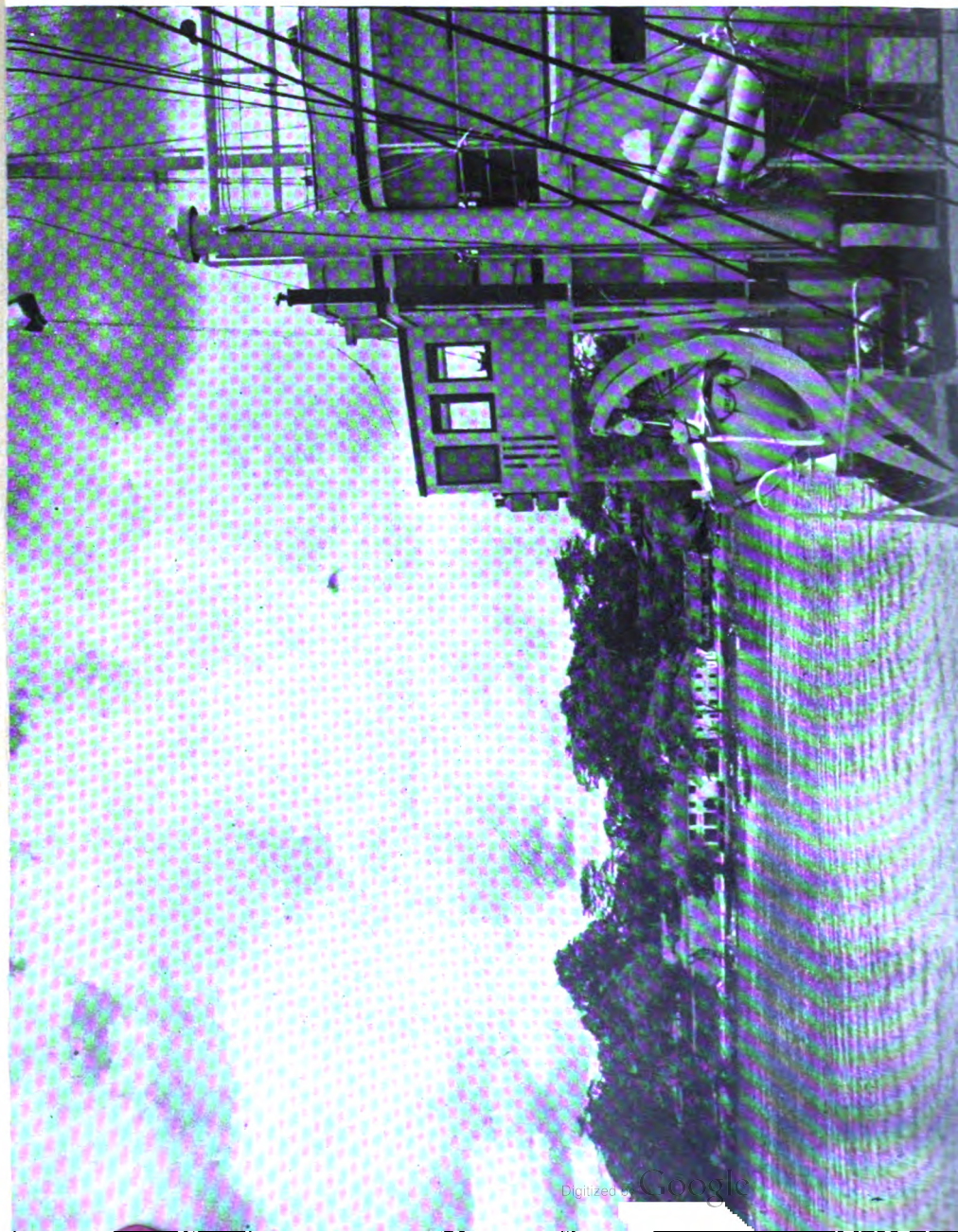
Work at the distilleries continues on the same lines as in the previous year and the system has proved very satisfactory. A large number of junior customs officers have now had experience of this work which they perform very satisfactorily.

Commerce—two
youngsters examine
the variegated con-
tents of a Sibu shop

Philip Jones



Commerce—the Bor-
neo Company domain
at Kuching seen from
T. S. M. V. *Rajah
Brooke*



Staff

It is still, unfortunately, impossible to fill the vacancies in the out-door staff with men of the required educational standard. It is quite clear that the terms of service offered to customs officers are not sufficiently remunerative to attract intelligent young men and the great majority of applications have been from older men of inadequate education who were mostly quite unsuitable.

This shortage of out-door staff has therefore continued to be one of our principal difficulties. This is especially noticeable in the Third Division where Tanjong Mani, the distillery and the airport lay an additional strain on the meagre resources of the Department. The position is further complicated by lack of accommodation which makes it impossible to transfer adequate numbers of officers from Kuching to the outstations.

The staff at the end of the year consisted of the Commissioner (who is also Controller of Excise), 6 Superintendents, 3 Assistant Superintendents, 1 Accountant, 26 Clerks, 4 Office Boys, 1 Chief Supervisor, 7 Supervisors, 161 Customs Officers, 11 Non-Establishment Female Clerks, 7 Tobacco Sealers, and 2 Female Searchers.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

		1952	1951	1940
Exports	...	\$438,563,317	\$508,349,436	\$45,770,407
Imports	...	382,945,953	383,745,457	32,645,192
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$821,509,270	\$892,094,893	\$78,415,599
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS.

		1952		1951	
		Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Beans and peas	...	...	tons	1,192	\$ 669,846
Biscuits	...	1,227	\$ 672,465 tons	1,322	1,624,349
Boots and shoes	...	1,297	1,497,422 "	33,313	947,068
Butter & cheese	...	26,527	735,083 doz. pairs	55	185,192
Cloth—cotton, silk and woollen	...	62	238,613 tons	8,718,730	7,860,532
Clothing—cotton silk and woollen	...	4,616,374	3,218,590 sq. yards		
Coffee—raw and ground	...	52,231	618,565 dozens	79,431	1,118,946
Crockery and glassware	...	330	970,766 tons	343	821,358
Cycles, motor cycles and accessories	...		662,908		785,678
Chemicals and drugs	...		1,178,553		1,441,087
Electrical goods and apparatus	...		2,769,322		2,830,374
Fish, dried, salted and in tins	...	2,554	1,294,683		1,153,790
Flour, wheat	...	2,799	2,945,534 tons	2,951	3,824,738
Fruits, fresh, dried and preserved	...	1,068	1,314,444 "	2,477	1,012,545
Iron, steel, etc., and manufactures thereof	...		1,197,532 "	1,004	1,067,569
Machinery	...		3,895,827		3,753,248
Milk, condensed, sterilized, etc.	...	2,053	5,753,111		6,265,387
Motor lorries, cars and accessories	...		3,188,034 "	1,990	2,986,827
	...		1,869,329		1,399,799

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL IMPORTS—Continued

COMMERCE

35

	1952		1951	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Oil—lubricating, kerosene, benzine, crude and liquid fuel
Petroleum gas—natural
Rice
Salt
Soap
Stationery and books
Sugar
Tea
Twine and threads
Tobacco in tins, cigars and cigarettes
Vegetables, fresh, salted and preserved
Wines and spirits

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS.

	1952		1951	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Betelnuts (Arecanuts)
Beeswax
Birdsnests, edible
Canes

DETAILS OF PRINCIPAL EXPORTS—Continued

	1952		1951	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Copra ...	... tons	2,612 \$	3,864 \$	2,654,196
Damar ...	...	2,236	964	613,829
Fish, fresh, dried and salted	"	65	75½	92,496
Gutta—jangkar ...	"	75	43	79,414
jelutong raw	"	154	110	117,210
jelutong refined	"	585	487	1,275,327
jelutong pressed	"	328	498	917,794
percha ...	"	18	9	67,849
Nipah sugar	"	99	139	58,387
Oil—vegetable	"	600½	27	32,124
crude petroleum	"	3,077,254	3,206,152	200,414,197
refined	"	1,874,688	1,741,446	102,772,482
Pepper ...	"	4,012½	1,209½	17,925,184
Prawns, dried	"	57	54	165,483
Rattana	"	817	1,006	344,584
Rubber, plantation	"	31,471	42,521	158,865,402
Sago flour	"	22,620	23,945	7,988,232
Timber ...	"	98,309	54,528	4,727,834
Cutch ...	... cwts.	13,957	15,600	501,820
				480,293 cwts.

Chapter VII

LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

The organisation responsible for land alienation and tenure and for the registration of rights to land remained the same as in previous years. A description of the method of dealing with the requirements of the public through the Land and Survey Departmental offices and the numerous administrative district and sub-district offices is given in the Annual Report for 1951.

This organisation has proved reliable and efficient over the past twenty years although shortage of staff has caused arrears of work. It has been difficult to find suitable recruits of the requisite standard, and young men of a lower academic standard have been recruited to maintain the strength of the technical staff. These recruits are being given special tuition in the recently established survey school to fit them for routine work in the beginning. Opportunities for promotion from the lower scale to the regular Junior Technical scale will be given to those of merit.

REVIEW OF LAND DISPOSITIONS FOR THE YEAR 1952

Applications for new land

Applications for land received during the year were 6816 for a total of 33,361 acres compared with 11,188 applications totalling 35,952 acres for 1951.

The 1952 applications are classified as follows :

<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>No. of Applications</i>
Building	289	511
Rubber	9173	1398
Coconut	2410	389
Pepper	967	539
Sago	4391	605
Padi	6418	1552
Other agricultural	7355	1721
Cattle grazing	1320	49
Miscellaneous	1038	52
	<u>33361</u>	<u>6816</u>

There was an increase of 925 in the number of applications for land for rubber planting but a decrease of 3006 in applications for pepper land. Applications for sago land dropped by 463.

Most of the increased demand for rubber land came from the Third Division and is due to the opening up of land for block planting of rubber referred to later. The drop in applications for pepper land indicates that the land available for pepper planting is practically all taken up. These areas are mostly those worked out and abandoned in the nineteen thirties. They are being brought back by the use of fertiliser and the employment of more conservative methods of agriculture. This follows from the decision made early in 1951 that virgin forest land should no longer be made available for pepper planting.

About 75% of the sago land applications were in the Third Division and the decrease in these is not considered to indicate a falling off in the planting of sago. The demand for new sago land has probably already been met during the last few years. It is known that a great proportion of the land already alienated is still under forest.

Applications dealt with :

Outstanding from 1951	...	...	6679
Received in 1952	...	...	6816
Dealt with in 1952	...	...	6753

The applications dealt with were disposed of as follows :

Surveyed for title issue	...	...	5446
Land already surveyed	...	...	676
Cancelled, withdrawn, etc.	...	...	623
Title issued without survey	...	...	8

At the end of the year there remained 6741 applications, a slight increase in the arrears of this work.

Very little Crown Land remains for alienation in the town of Kuching: there are a few lots available for godowns in Padungan. As a general rule alienation of town and bazaar lots is by public auction. The following sales took place in 1952:

	Number sold	Amount realised
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade I	11	\$140,500.00
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade II	9	8,890.00
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade III	8	6,915.00
Shop and Industrial Lots		
Grade IV	4	8,550.00
	<hr/> 32	<hr/> \$164,855.00

Other town lots Grade I
(mainly residential) ... Nil

Other town lots Grade II
(mainly residential) ... Nil

Prices of shop lots in Sibul remain high, and the demand is still keen. As soon as land can be made available and road frontages provided, lots are put up for auction.

Transactions in alienated land

7875 instruments were registered during the year; they comprised:

Transfers	...	...	...	3761
Charges	...	...	...	1259
Release of Charges	...	...	...	723
Sub-leases	...	...	...	56
Surrenders to the Crown	...	...	...	375
Affidavits	...	...	...	39
Letters of Administration	...	...	...	433
Caveats	...	...	...	159
Miscellaneous (i.e. Deeds of Exchange, etc.)	...	...	...	458
Powers of Attorney or Revocation	...	...	...	102
Transmission by Probate in case of small estates	...	...	...	510

Issue of titles for Crown Land

9421 leases were issued during the year for approved applications, making the total number of titles extant at 31st December, 1952, 120,612.

Miscellaneous Surveys and Inspections

Requests for sub-division of alienated land were 471. Miscellaneous inspections of land were 874.

LAND CLASSIFICATION DEVELOPMENT AND SETTLEMENT

Mixed Zone and Native Areas

The following areas were constituted under the Land Classification Ordinance during the year:

Mixed Zones	Area
1st Division	22.24 acres
2nd Division	320 square miles
3rd Division	143.31 square miles
4th Division	16.51 acres
5th Division	—

The following ceased to be Native Area Land and became Mixed Zone land :—

			Area
1st Division	...	...	39.00 acres
2nd Division	...	...	14.80 acres
3rd Division	...	...	1.32 square miles
4th Division	...	...	—
5th Division	...	...	—

Native Areas			Area
1st Division	...	...	45.86 acres
2nd Division	...	...	—
3rd Division	...	...	1.25 acres
4th Division	...	...	—
5th Division	...	...	—

The following ceased to be Mixed Zone Land and became Native Area Land :—

			Area
1st Division	...	...	24.67 square miles
2nd Division	...	...	650.60 square miles
3rd Division	...	...	—
4th Division	...	...	—
5th Division	...	...	—

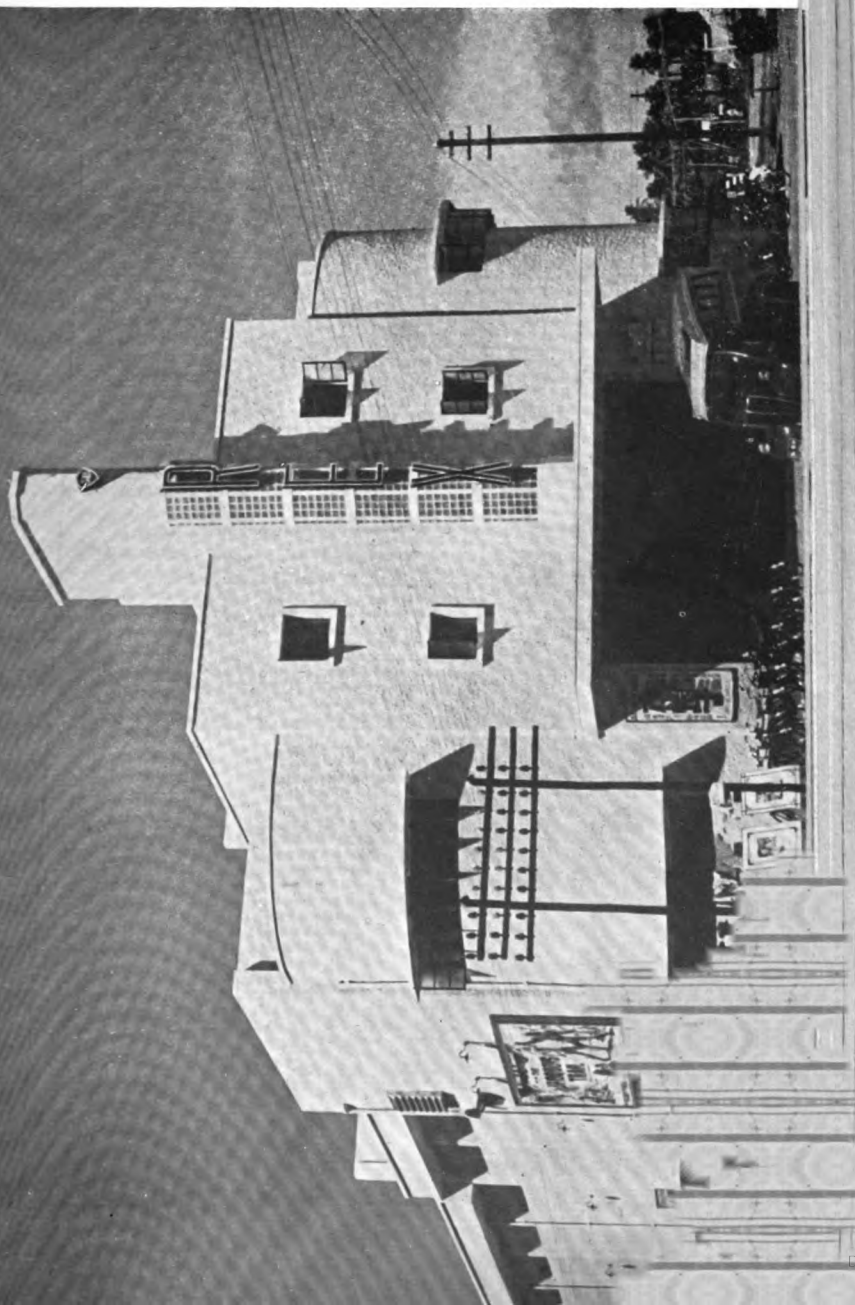
The total areas of each category in the country are now :

Mixed Zones where both natives and non-natives hold land about 4278 square miles.

Native Areas where only natives can hold land about 931 square miles.

The rest of Sarawak (41,791 square miles) is Interior Area and Native Customary Land, where, apart from mining and forestry undertakings, the only occupied land is that consisting of farming and other native lands, generally lying away from the main centres of trade and plantation industry. Only general administrative control is exercised over these farming lands.

The Changing Sky
line of Kuching—the
new Rex Cinema is
Temple Street on the
course of the former
Sungei Kuching



Allas & Son

A scheme to the settle 130 Chinese on land for rubber, coconut and padi on the coastal lands between Oya and Mukah has been completed and will be surveyed early in 1953. The settlement of Chinese on the Lower Rejang Delta wet padi lands has made satisfactory progress. All the readily usable padi land in the Mixed Zones created under the scheme has been applied for with the exceptions of the four mixed zones in the Batang Igan. These applications total 5350 acres.

OPERATIONS UNDER THE LAND SETTLEMENT ORDINANCE

The only work that can be considered under this heading, i.e. the settlement of legal and equitable claims of people already on the land, is the pre-settlement surveys in the Pantu area of the Second Division, which began towards the end of the year.

Operations under the Land Settlement Ordinance were intended, in 1933, to achieve two aims :

- (a) to settle claims to land where alienation has been taking place for some considerable time before 1933 and where many titles were old, inaccurate, and confused ; and
- (b) to overtake gradually and supersede operations carried out since 1933 in the alienation of land under the 1932 Land Ordinance.

It has been apparent for some time that the latter aim is impossible to achieve, and that, owing to the progress made in alienation of land under the Land Ordinance, it would be a waste of time and money even if it could be done. The reason is that practically all titles issued under the Land Ordinance since 1933 are as sound (as regards boundaries) as titles issued in the same period under the Land Settlement Ordinance. It will thus be possible to bring them under a limited form of "settlement" title without further investigation. It is proposed soon to provide the legal machinery for this and thereby to confine deliberate operations under the Settlement Ordinance to areas where old and inaccurate titles still exist or where native customary rights are complicated. All titles will be carried to the same common Land Register, using the parcel number and block number system of reference ; but those coming direct from Land Ordinance leases without further investigation may need to be in some degree limited.

HOUSING TOWN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

KUCHING

Housing

The overcrowding of Kuching remains a major problem despite the greater availability of building materials and the marked increase in the number of dwelling houses erected during the year.

Building costs are still high, but much of the profit from the boom years was invested in property and a good many houses were built.

Strict enforcement of the Municipal By-laws relating to the construction and sitings of buildings was the only factor controlling private enterprise (other than the Rent Control Ordinance) but it is doubtful whether the year's increased building has kept pace with the expansion of population. It is probable that the present situation is even worse than it was at the 1951 survey which showed that the Bazaar was greatly overcrowded, and that accommodation for more than 1000 families should be found as soon as possible.

The implications of past surveys were clearly borne out by a report made by the Manager of the Singapore Improvement Trust. Plans were made under the Development Scheme for a housing project for Kuching, but the low priority given to the scheme by the Development Board prevented the scheme from being begun in 1952.

Here, as elsewhere, private enterprise cannot provide mass rehousing. The task must be undertaken by the Local Authority.

The Co-operative Development Department has tried to rehouse fishermen in more salubrious conditions and 18 to 20 houses were erected by co-operative effort during the year, giving adequate living quarters to thirty families. This is the first part of a three year scheme. Native houses in kampong areas have much increased, and a Chinese speculator built 15 shophouses—the first of 45. But these represent only a small part of the houses required to give proper living conditions.

New Junior Service Government quarters for thirty families have been built. This has enabled officers to live in good conditions without exorbitant rents. Senior Service bungalows are filled as fast as they are built.

The problems of sanitation and health which follow overcrowding can be solved only by a bold housing scheme; for the enforcement of by-laws, demolition and eviction do not answer the realities of the situation. The Rent Control Order, though giving tenants some security of tenure, is only a legislative substitute for more houses.

The present unsatisfactory conditions can be cured only by doubling the building area. Consideration of this matter is of immediate importance. With the provision of adequate housing, many social welfare problems will automatically disappear.

Town Planning

Considerable strides have been made in the planning of Kuching Town.

A Committee set up some years ago made a master plan which was recently approved in principle by the Supreme Council. This is the skeleton of main roads and zones on which future planning will be based.

Under this plan land has been acquired for road reserves, new buildings have been sited and building lines fixed. The Town and Country Planning Ordinance (1952) has enabled the planning committee to go ahead with development where it could not be done before for lack of authority.

Events of interest in 1952 were:

- (a) The establishment of the Henghua fishing community in a "better living co-operative" reserve in the Sungei Kuap area.
- (b) The establishment of a bulk oil installation at Sungei Biawak, near Pending point.
- (c) The laying out of a large block at 1½ mile Rock Road for Junior Service quarters (there will be a hundred quarters with a small shopping centre and other amenities).
- (d) The siting of public buildings including the Anti-Tuberculosis Association Clinic, the Government Health Centre, the new Secretariat Offices, Broadcasting House, the British Red Cross Society, the Overseas Chinese Bank, the Rex Cinema, and many others.
- (e) The recognition of the principle of grouping the main public buildings of the town round the Padang which it is proposed by the Planning Committee shall henceforth be regarded as a "civic centre".

The Planning Committee does not intend to erect a centre where all the best buildings would be concentrated, but to group associated buildings where they will be readily accessible to the public.

This includes an open space for ceremonies and recreation and around it, public buildings of harmonious design with local, rather than national, associations.

Plans are also proceeding for the development of a port area beyond Sungei Periok on the Pending Road to help the inadequate port facilities in Kuching Town. This requires an arterial road to the town from the proposed port area, and the establishment of godown and factory areas.

A Fun Fair was built near the Racecourse, three fairly large shopping areas were sited and land surveys for a large housing scheme carried out.

OTHER CENTRES

Most of the outlying centres of trade (except some recently expanded towns mentioned later) are comparatively small bazaars which, though the volume of trade therein is considerable, do not present serious housing and planning problems.

These bazaars began in the early days as small groups of trading shops on river banks and later grew to a stage where some planning with rebuilding in view was desirable. Over the last twenty years practically all these small centres have been replanned on simple and hygienic lines permitting future expansion. In many cases the destruction by accidental fire of blocks of old and insanitary shop-houses has made the task of planning and housing a simple one.

In other places new sites have been selected for immediate re-building or for re-building at a later date.

The larger centres such as Miri, Sibü, Sarikei, Binatang and Simanggang have all been laid out on new lines to form a regular township where only permanent buildings of brick or concrete can be built. In Sibü this occurred after the fire of 1928, and Miri was replanned after the war owing to the completed destruction of the town during military operation. Sarikei and Binatang were new towns growing rapidly with the increasing trade of the Lower Rejang and expansion was controlled by plans drawn up in the early thirties. The Simanggang plan provides for the possible expansion of this centre on completion of the arterial road from Kuching.

At all these places a residential area has been formed, in some cases by setting aside Crown Land for alienation as residential lots and in others by controlled sub-division of agricultural land. This, however, does not provide for all the trading population many of whom live in the shophouses.

All but three of the fourteen bazaars destroyed during and since the war have been completely or nearly rebuilt.

SURVEYS AND MAPPING

Cadastral Surveys

The field work in 1952 for the alienation of new land, reservation of land, revision surveys, mutations of title, and inspections etc. consisted of the following totals in all categories of land :—

Country Lands

Prismatic compass boundary surveys (3066 miles) 7872 lots @ \$24.06 per lot.

Theodolite control traverses 381 miles @ \$139.85 per mile.

Town Lands

Theodolite survey of lots 3518 chains 286 lots @ \$3.09 per chain and \$38.03 per lot.

Theodolite survey queries etc. 1246 chains @ \$1.77 per chain.

Miscellaneous cadastral surveys and inspections without survey 1409 lots @ \$15.92 per lot.

The cadastral charting on record sheets for the year consisted of the following :—

No. of Theodolite Traverses : computed for charting 79 Charted 56.

New lots charted 7527

Revision charting 3790 lots charted.

The arrears of current field work have already been mentioned. Arrears of office work are :

(a) theodolite traverses awaiting action
computation, 54
charting, 84: and

(b) lots awaiting charting, 3049.

Some progress has been made in reducing arrears as compared with 1951.

During the year, at the request of the Government of Brunei, a start was made on the revision of the Brunei cadastral survey, made necessary by the loss of certain survey records during the war.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEYS

The topographical work carried out in 1952 is as follows :

River surveys	Nil
Compass traverses 60 miles @	\$ 88.88 per mile
Levelling 16 miles @	\$146.70 per mile

Ground control for air photo mapping :

Field identification of trig points 24 points

The Royal Air Force was not able to do much air photography for topographical maps during the year because of other commitments and bad weather.

1/35000 photography of 1,110 square miles was completed, and 34 trig points were photographed for identification. The total area of Sarawak covered by air photography at the end of 1952 was 34,310 square miles, leaving about 12,500 square miles to be done.

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAPPING

Work on the 1/50,000 regular series of maps continued during the year at the Directorate of Colonial Surveys. All ground control for the first eleven sheets has now been supplied by the Land and Survey Department, Sarawak. The Department produced by photostat preliminary sketch maps for the use of various departments, and

compiled from air-photograph data. These were originally prepared as a part of the programme of final mapping, and used by field parties to collect place names and river names, but they have been useful, when the names have been completed, as a general preliminary sketch map. The area covered amounts to the entire First Division and a small area at Sibuti in the Fourth Division. The photostat mosaics are also a useful source of information for the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Geological Survey. It is likely that the demand for these mosaics will go on even after 1/50,000 maps become available. 950 square miles of mosaics were completed in the year covering 20,450 square miles. The mosaics are compiled from photostat copies of air photographs. They follow the layout of the regular topographical sheet series.

FINANCIAL

The revenue and expenditure of the Land and Survey Department for 1952 is as follows :

Revenue		Expenditure	
Land Sales and premiums	\$252,691.75	Personal emoluments	\$654,135.46
Stamp duty ...	124,075.92	Other charges	292,094.68
Registration fees ...	19,315.00	Compensation for land	143,337.22
Application fees ...	13,450.00	Special expenditure	31,174.33
Quit rent ...	396,457.10		
Survey & Land Office fees ...	90,223.95		
Total ...	<u>\$896,213.72</u>	Total ...	<u>\$1,120,741.69</u>

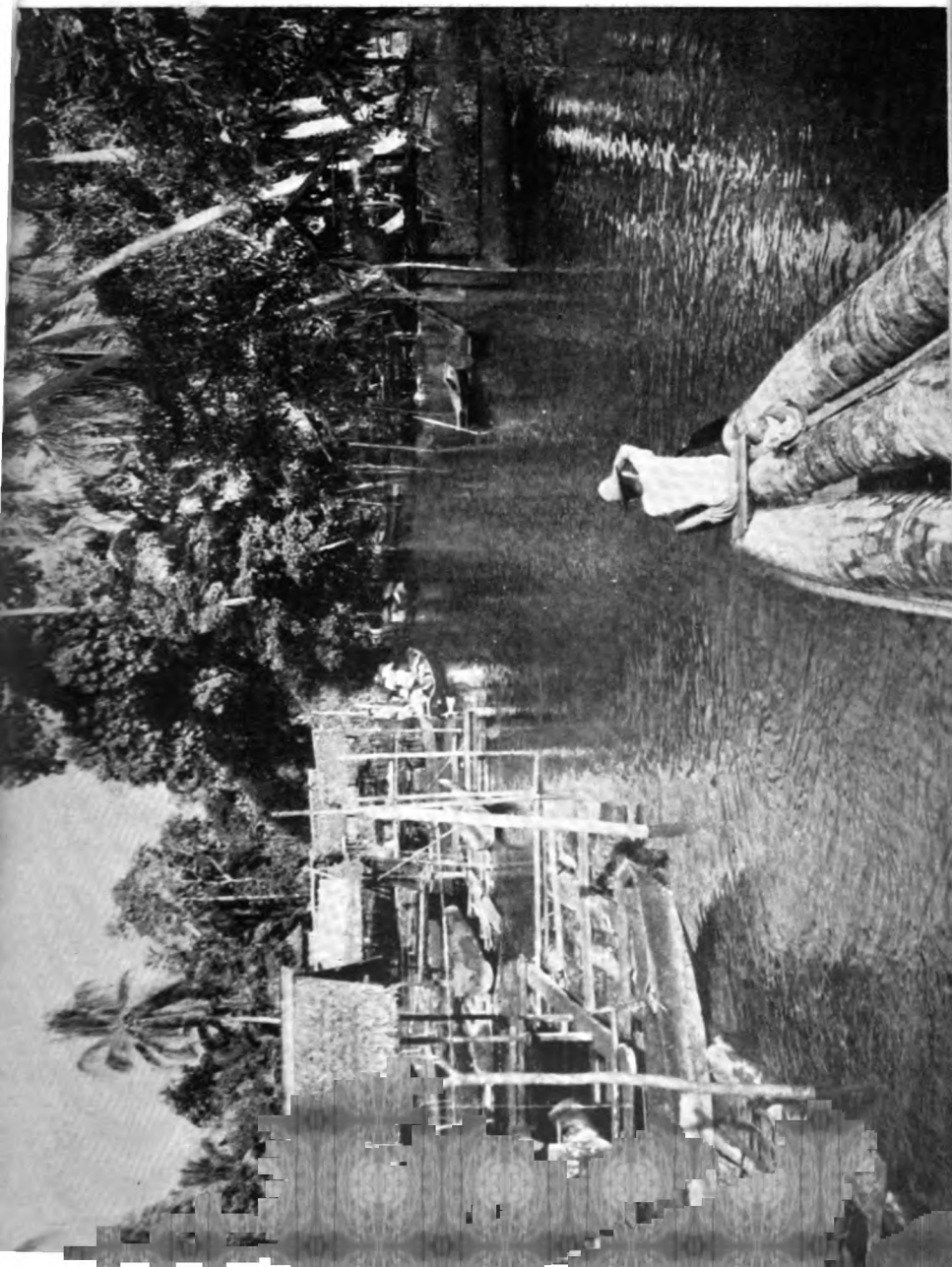
MINING

4 General Prospecting Licences and 8 Panning Licences were issued during the year. No Exclusive Prospecting Licences were issued and those extant at the beginning of the year for bauxite prospecting were surrendered during the year. A total area of 3939 acres

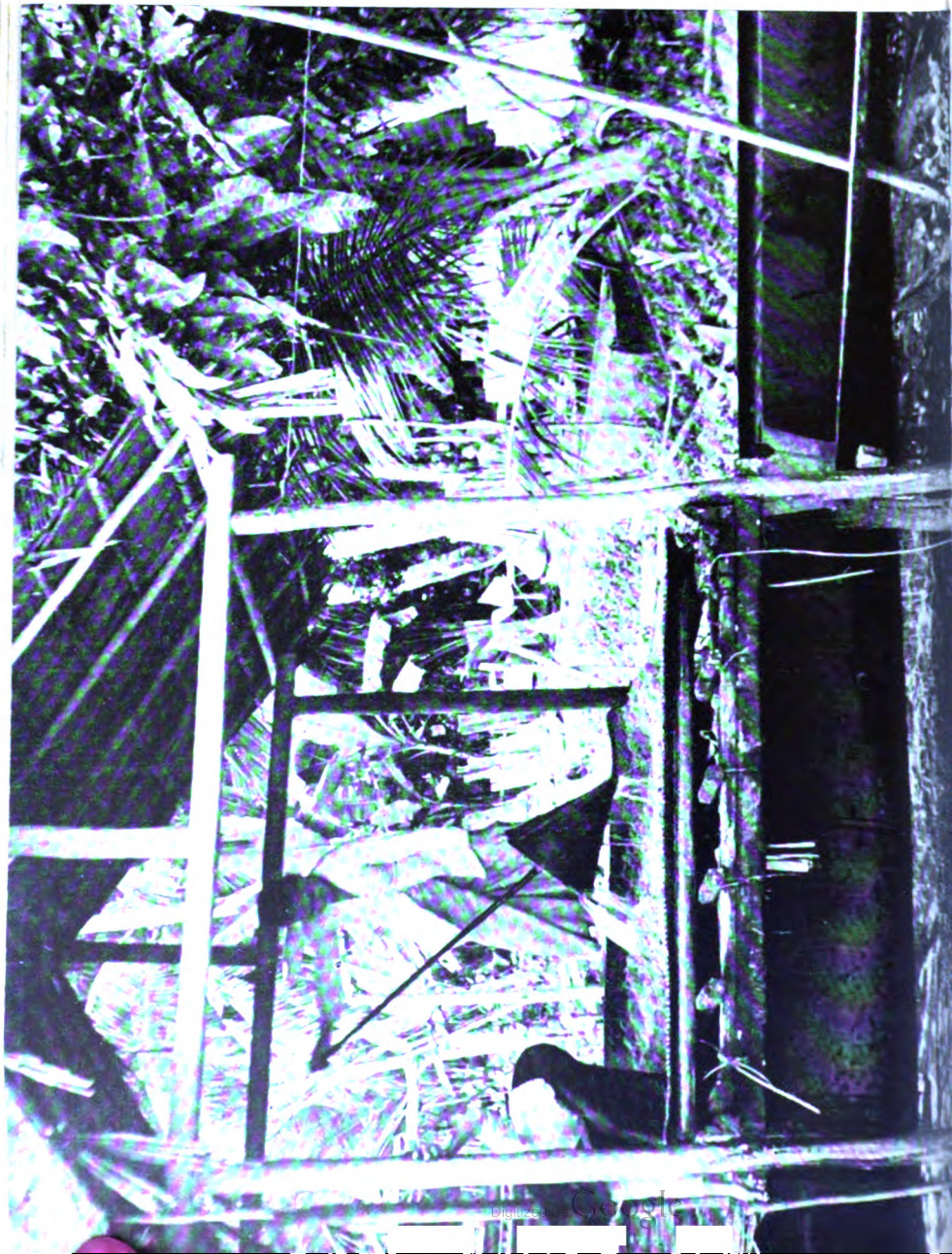
is still held under Mining Leases, of which there are now twenty-five, for gold. This has been the only mining activity, with a production of 843 fine ounces.



The Sago Industry.
A Melanau paddling
a raft of sago palm
trunks at Sungai Ud
Dalat



The Sago Industry—over
swilling water over
‘temanta’ (raw sago)
in a ‘mesap’ shed
at Kampong Medon,
Oya River



Chapter VIII

PRODUCTION

AGRICULTURE

The country has an area of about 47,000 square miles of which it is estimated about 13,000 square miles are used for agricultural purposes. The 1947 census showed a population of about 546,400 persons; the overall population density is therefore low, averaging only 11.4 persons per square mile. It has been estimated that on the basis of existing methods of subsistence farming—which is the only sound method on which to assess short-term potentialities for agricultural development—the country could not safely support a rural population of more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ million people.

Preliminary surveys show that approximately 5,600 square miles of the flat delta and coastal regions consist of deep peat swamps at or near sea level; most of this land is unsuitable as it stands for agricultural purposes, and it would probably be impracticable and uneconomic to reclaim much of it for wet padi cultivation. There are however considerable areas of moderately good wet padi land estimated at a total of not more than 2,000 square miles, situated mainly on the river banks in the delta areas.

The hinterland and interior of the country consists largely of steep hills and mountains. Flat land is occasionally found between the hills but the total area of this flat land only forms a small part of the whole and it is generally difficult to reach from the coastal areas. The soils of the hinterland and interior are for the most part extremely thin and poor by ordinary standards and their poverty has frequently been aggravated by severe erosion and leaching. Scattered outcrops of basic and intermediate igneous rocks and of limestones do occur and where they are found there is a marked local improvement in the quality of the alluvial soils; unfortunately the total extent of the good alluvial soils is comparatively small.

Favourable climatic conditions do to some extent counteract the general poverty of the soils, and wherever even a moderate depth of reasonably friable soil occurs vegetative growth is often surprisingly vigorous particularly if small dressings of fertilisers are applied by special methods that are being developed by the Department of Agriculture.

The average annual rainfall is of the order of 160 inches; in the south-western part of the country there is a definite period of maximum rainfall during the months of December, January and

February but in the north-eastern part the maxima and minima are not so pronounced and the distribution of rainfall is more uniform. Very heavy local storms account for a great deal of the rainfall and these storms sometime cause disastrous unexpected floods that may well be one of the main reasons for the limited development of the country's agriculture in the past; unfortunately the limited areas of good alluvial soil are all too often the areas particularly subject to serious flooding. The periods of heavy rainfall are often succeeded by short dry hot periods and vegetation on the thin poor soils then quickly gives the impression of a prolonged drought. Shade temperatures average 80°F and there is little variation from this average, daily minima below 70°F or maxima above 90°F not often being recorded. Atmospheric humidity is generally high; though sometimes, particularly during a dry spell, there is a marked drop in relative humidity in the forenoon. Sunshine records have only recently been started, but it would appear that the general average for the country will only be about five hours bright sunshine per day or even less than this.

Pest damage on crops can be extremely serious at times; observations suggest insect pests may be more serious than fungoid pests, though it is possible that as more intensive cultivation is practised fungoid pests may become a greater menace. Small animals, particularly rats and squirrels, are a major pest; and wild pigs, monkeys and deer can also do considerable damage. Giant snails are also becoming a pest of increasing importance. Small birds do a great deal of damage to standing padi crops and doves in some places are becoming increasingly troublesome on grain crops generally.

Apart from five large rubber estates, small farms are responsible for most of the agriculture of the country. The policy is to encourage the native farmer to develop the country's agriculture by working a mixed system of farming, rather than development by the large specialised plantation. It is now generally agreed that some control over the farmer will be necessary, if progress is to be made in accordance with this policy, and that this control can best be exercised through the establishment of "group farming" units. The prospects for development of co-operative societies for the country's rural industries are promising.

The developmental work of the Department of Agriculture has been seriously hindered since the war by the acute shortage of trained and experienced staff. Difficulties consequent on this shortage have been aggravated by the primitive state of the country's communications. The position is still difficult but has eased a little since the establishment in 1951 with financial assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund of a permanent Department of Agriculture Staff Training School near Kuching.

Much of the Department's efforts since the Liberation have been concentrated on preliminary surveys and investigation work necessitated by the dearth of previously recorded technical information about agricultural conditions.

Considering the difficulties that have to be contended with, good progress is now being made on development schemes. Most of the schemes were to begin with dependent on financial assistance from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund and indeed without this assistance the schemes could not have been started; the cost of the schemes is however now being borne to an increasing extent by Sarawak herself. The main schemes are group farming projects with wet padi as the main crop and are sited at the 27th mile Serian Road and Muara Tuang in the First Division, at Bijat and Tanjong Lubok Nibong in the Second Division, at Rantau Panjang and S'Tapang in the Third Division, at Sibuti in the Fourth Division, and at Bangkita in the Fifth Division. Excellent progress is being made on these schemes; it is difficult to quote figures to illustrate the progress made as already the schemes' influence extends over far wider areas than the areas immediately surrounding the demonstrations staged by the Department of Agriculture; progress is evident not only as far as agricultural practice is concerned but also from the point of view of community development as a whole. Development Centres demonstrating other aspects of the Department's work are now operating in various parts of the country; Tarat in the First Division is the most important of these but other important centres are working at Semongok and Kuap in the First Division, at Simanggang in the Second Division, at Belaga in the Third Division, at Tanjong Tahap (Baram) and Pujut Lopeng in the Fourth Division and at Bangkita in the Fifth Division. Most of the centres have now become striking demonstrations of what can be achieved in Sarawak by stabilised intensive methods of farming as opposed to the shifting land robbing that is all too common at present. The results of the work leave little doubt that Sarawak could safely support a very much higher population than the 2½ million suggested earlier in this section provided the methods advocated by the Department were widely adopted; particularly as far as the sound use of fertilisers, the use of a limited amount of suitable farm machinery and the adoption of sound methods of pest control are concerned.

The position with regard to particular crops is briefly as follows :—

Padi

Rice is Sarawak's staple foodstuff and padi is the main crop. The export of rice or padi is not at present permitted. There is no doubt, from the technical point of view, that Sarawak could be self supporting in rice; in fact, when prices for the main export products are low and there is little money available in the rural

areas for the purchase of imported rice, the country does of necessity approach self-sufficiency in this commodity. When however, prices of export products are high (as in 1950 and 1951 when rubber and pepper fetched record prices) interest in padi planting (wet padi particularly) wanes and Sarawak may become dependent on imports for as much as half its rice requirements.

Imports of rice have continued since the war and have been as follows :-

1947	—	19,272	metric tons.
1948	—	17,525	" "
1949	—	11,517	" "
1950	—	25,478	" "
1951	—	31,907	" "
1952	—	28,723	" "

The Government has operated a padi purchasing scheme since 1946 and has guaranteed a minimum buying price for locally grown padi. To start with the scheme undoubtedly encouraged padi production but the guaranteed price is now well below the open market price (which is highly profitable to the farmer) and few purchases are being made by Government.

Shifting dry padi cultivation on the hills does account for a considerable part of the padi produced in Sarawak. When adequate bush fallows are observed the method is not an unsound way of utilising the poor hill land for food production in places where the use of fertilisers is not practicable; when misused though, the method is very destructive and does lead to very serious problems concerning the conservation of natural resources. Powers to control and rationalise the practice are now available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950 and are being applied in localities where a majority of the people concerned have come to realise the need for them. Due to the scattered patchy and variable nature of the hill padi cultivation and to the difficulties of communication in the areas concerned it is impossible to obtain anything approaching accurate statistics with regard to the crop; it is estimated though that the area of secondary jungle and scrub cleared regularly each year for the crop is of the order of 500,000 acres. Whilst under favourable conditions surprisingly high yields of good quality padi are obtainable under the system, poor crops are often obtained and complete failures are common; it is estimated that over a period of years average yields cannot exceed 100 gantangs (gallons) of padi per acre at the very most.

Wet padi is cultivated, mainly in the delta and coastal areas. The methods employed are generally primitive and vary from a true swamp cultivation to a semi-wet type of extensive cultivation on the riverbank levees; intensive annual cultivation with effective water control is not commonly found. Yields are generally low

and it is estimated that over a period of years the average is not more than 200 gantangs per acre for all types of wet padi cultivation. The total acreage of wet padi cultivated varies considerably from year to year as indicated earlier; so far due to shortage of staff it has not been possible to make reliable estimates of acreage but it is believed that the maximum acreage that is planted each year is of the order of 200,000 acres.

There is great scope for intensification of cultivation on the wet padi land, particularly as far as improved water control is concerned. A great deal can be done as far as conservation of rain water falling on the fields is concerned by construction of small bunds, but even in the wet season severe dry periods are liable to occur and provision of some irrigation water is generally necessary. Construction and maintenance of gravity fed canals is often difficult or impracticable but considerable success is being obtained with small diesel driven pumping plants raising water from the rivers which usually flow adjacent to the padi land. Effective methods of rat control have been developed and are leading to major increases in padi actually harvested per acre. Whilst the swamp padi varieties when grown in the swamps do not usually respond to fertilisers it has been found that very large responses can often be obtained on some at least of the local dry and semi-wet varieties; this finding is obviously of great potential importance and is being followed up. When the majority of the farmers concerned favour it selected areas are now being declared as "wet padi land" under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950 and must then be farmed intensively according to certain simple rules.

The 1951-1952 padi crop was generally good but unfortunately the total acreage was well below average. A greatly increased area has been planted for the 1952-1953 crop and the acreage is probably near normal; at the end of 1952, due to favourable weather, prospects were excellent but late rain and floods have since caused some damage.

Rubber

Rubber is the chief tree crop and Sarawak's most important agricultural export. It was estimated in 1941 that there were approximately 240,000 acres under rubber, of which 10,580 acres were on five large estates, the remainder being accounted for by small holdings each less than 5 acres in size. It is possible that the acreage increased during the period of enemy occupation. Most of the acreage is occupied by old seedling rubber in very poor condition and must be regarded as a wasting asset. Technique of management, tapping and sheet manufacture is generally of a very low standard. Rubber prices which in 1950 reached a phenomenal level, remained high during 1951 and the industry was extremely

prosperous. Prices dropped considerably in 1952. There is now considerable interest in planting and replanting of rubber with high yielding material and suitable budwood and clonal seed are being supplied by the Department of Agriculture. In order to guard against planting on land needed for wet padi and suitable for that purpose, it has again become necessary to control planting by reimposition of certain sections of the Rubber Regulation Ordinance which had been suspended in 1946. A small modern factory for processing latex collected from surrounding smallholders has recently been erected near Kuching and is operating successfully; the success of this pilot scheme suggests that such small centralised factories may well be the answer to the problem of improving the quality of rubber exported from Sarawak. It is intended to erect, in 1953, a similar small factory at Sibu.

Sago

It is estimated that there are about 150,000 acres under sago cultivation, the major part lying in the Mukah, Oya and Dalat regions of the Third Division though there are fairly large areas in parts of the Second Division as well. No detailed information as to the number of palms and their age and condition is at present available, but taking account of land under fallow and of land occupied by young immature palms, it is estimated that about 75,000 acres can at present be regarded as under productive sago. Yields per acre are generally not high and the methods of extracting the flour are some times primitive and the quality of the product poor. For a time after the war production of sago flour was at a high level and there is no doubt that the gardens were in consequence overworked. Production is now more in accord with rates of regeneration and replanting and some interest is being shown in new plantings. Since the passing of the Sago Flour (Control Exports) Ordinance 1948, export of sago flour that does not reach a specified minimum standard of quality has been prohibited; the more progressive sections of the trade have on the whole co-operated well and there has been considerable improvement in the general quality of the flour exported. Investigations which are being made into the technical properties of Sarawak sago flour suggest that its potentialities as a source of industrial starch have not in the past been fully utilised; with the co-operation of the home trade considerable progress has now been made in the increased production of a flour to meet certain special requirements; this special flour is now generally known as "high viscosity" flour.

Pepper

This was an important export product for many years before the war; quality was excellent and the best grade commanded the highest prices offered in the world markets. Unfortunately nearly

all the gardens were abandoned during the Japanese occupation but considerable replanting has taken place and there is little doubt that the number of tended vines now exceeds the pre-war total. The vines are planted in small gardens, frequently less than half an acre in extent. Before the war most of the pepper gardens were owned and worked by Chinese but recently there has been a major increase in the gardens planted by Dayaks in interior areas. The gardens are usually planted on sloping land and clean weeded; losses of soil by erosion are very large and action is being taken with powers available under the Natural Resources Ordinance 1950; in some areas the response from the Chinese gardeners to this anti-erosion drive has been excellent though some mild local opposition is being met with in places. Prices in 1952 dropped a little but still remained at a highly profitable level; an unexpected feature of the price is the small margin that now exists between the prices received for white and black pepper (previously Sarawak white used to command a far higher price than Sarawak black). Exports of all types of pepper in 1952 totalled 67,424 piculs. It is estimated that exports in 1953 will be about 80,000 piculs; expectations would be higher but for the fact that certain diseases that were very troublesome before the war are again beginning to make themselves felt.

Coconuts

This is mainly a small-holder's crop largely confined to the First Division. The total acreage is estimated at only 21,000 acres though many of the palms are known to be old and in very poor condition. Some copra is exported but the quality is usually very low; the Department of Agriculture is now demonstrating simple methods of production of good quality copra.

Maize

This crop is grown to some extent on the more fertile land but is usually planted by occasional patches among the padi crops.

Jobs Tears, Ragi and Sorghum

These are grown to a small extent but usually only regarded as substitutes for padi in time of emergency and as poultry food. A single ear selection of sorghum made from a recent importation of seed by the Department of Agriculture shows considerable promise.

Sweet Potatoes, Tapioca and Yams

All are grown throughout the country for use as everyday vegetables and as substitutes for rice in time of shortage.

Fruit Trees

Fruit trees are found in the villages but the demand for fruit far exceeds supply and there is considerable scope for planting further trees of local types such as durian, rambutan, and mangosteen.

Fresh Vegetables

Production, except by some Chinese market gardens near the towns, is only on a small scale. A fair variety of tropical vegetables can be grown though the exceptionally heavy rainfall does at times hinder their intensive cultivation. The production of some temperate climate vegetables is possible in parts of the uplands.

Pineapples

This fruit will grow on most types of soil in Sarawak and fruit of high quality and exceptional flavour can be produced on the drained peat soils.

Coffee

Coffee is cultivated to a small extent near the villages for local consumption.

Tuba Root (Derris)

This root has been cultivated in the past but production and export are now small.

Gambier

This was an important crop many years ago but production is now negligible.

Tobacco

Tobacco for local consumption is planted in small areas near the villages. The quality of the product can probably be improved.

Cocoa

This crop is not yet cultivated by farmers in Sarawak but some observation plots established by the Department of Agriculture show some promise on the better types of soil particularly when fertilisers are used. Five hundred seedlings raised in quarantine in Malaya from clean selected seed obtained from the Gold Coast have been planted in the First Division and are now in bearing; all the pods produced are at present being used to raise further seedlings and a total of 550 plants have so far been distributed to various parts of Sarawak.

LIVESTOCK HUSBANDRY

Livestock husbandry at present plays but a small part in Sarawak's rural economy. Buffaloes are in quantity only in the Fifth Division and are used for meat production and for cultivating padi fields by trampling; the total number in the Fifth Division is estimated at about 6,000 and elsewhere in the country the number is negligible. Small herds of cattle are occasionally found but the total number is very small. Control is now exercised over the slaughter of cows and female buffaloes in order to meet the need for increasing stocks. The Department of Agriculture has recently imported for experimental purposes small numbers of selected Red Sindhi, Kelantan and Bali cattle. Pigs are kept by Chinese smallholders and are also generally found in and around Dayak houses. There is scope for the development of pork production provided the supply of feeding stuffs can be improved and this matter is being given increasing attention. The Department of Agriculture has successfully introduced some pure bred Middle White pigs from England and these are proving most suitable for mating with local breeds. Farmers are being encouraged to keep more ducks as they are easy to look after and fit in well with local farming systems. Domestic fowls are found in most villages but they do not do well in Sarawak except in the hands of the really skilled and experienced poultry keeper; the introduction of day-old chicks imported from Australia by air has not been very successful and on the whole it would appear best to concentrate on improving the local stock rather than to attempt further introductions. Some goats are found in the villages and are often a useful source of meat; a few pedigree Saanen milking goats have been imported from Australia for experimental crossing with local animals. Disease is probably an important factor limiting development of livestock husbandry in Sarawak and full scientific investigation of the matter will eventually be necessary; considerable success has already been obtained by inoculating poultry against Ranikhet disease with vaccine supplied by the Federation of Malaya Veterinary Department.

FISHERIES

Fish forms a staple food for many of the country's inhabitants and both marine and freshwater fisheries are of considerable importance. The main source of supply is at present the shallow coastal waters and the estuaries of the larger rivers; these waters are mainly worked by Malay, Melanau and Chinese (Henghua) fishermen. A surplus of certain varieties occurs and in 1952 exports of all types of fresh fish totalled 1,045 piculs valued at \$75,190. Production of certain types of fish is insufficient to meet local needs and imports of dried, salted and canned fish in 1952 totalled 43,000 piculs valued at \$2,950,000.

The fishing methods used along the coasts may appear crude to the casual observer but anyone acquainted with sea fishing is soon impressed by the simplicity, ingenuity and suitability for local conditions of the fish catching contrivances employed. The fishermen display considerable skill and a high standard of seamanship.

A survey of local sea fisheries was recently completed; whilst the results have confirmed that there are not nearly such large concentrations of fish in Sarawak waters as are found in the famous fishing grounds of temperate waters they do suggest that some further experiments of a practical nature will be worthwhile and may eventually lead to far greater quantities of good quality fish being available in Sarawak and even to increased exports. A Master Fisherman who took part in the survey has now been re-engaged and will undertake these experiments.

Improvements in the transport, marketing and distribution systems are possible and it is hoped to devote more attention in future to these aspects of the industry perhaps as subjects for co-operative development.

Conditions are generally suitable for freshwater fish farming and some Chinese farmers successfully obtain large yields of fish (mainly carp) but unfortunately some of the most important species do not breed in Sarawak and fry has to be imported. *Tilapia mossambica* has recently been introduced from Malaya and shows considerable promise as it breeds and fattens readily under Sarawak conditions and finds favour in the local markets.

Recent investigations suggest that the rate of breeding and of growth of small edible indigenous fish in the padi fields and small streams can be increased by simple methods; feeding at selected points seems to increase breeding and rate of growth but it does not appear to be essential to the existence of the fish.

FORESTRY

Natural forest still covers some 34,000 square miles, or approximately 72% of the total land area of Sarawak. Except for a relatively small and commercially unimportant area of Moss Forest on the tops of the higher hills, virtually the whole of this natural vegetation is classed as Lowland Tropical Rain Forest. It consists almost entirely of evergreen trees and is generally dominated by species of one botanical family, the Dipterocarpaceae, but it is nevertheless very varied; it is estimated that the number of indigenous tree species, many of which are still unknown, exceeds 2,500, and over 100 of these may occur on a single acre; but not more than about one-tenth of them are important as timber producers. For the working of timber, much of the forest is still inaccessible but, if the internal communications of the country can be improved, most of it is potentially productive.

The Lowland Tropical Rain Forest is divided into a number of distinctive types, dependent mainly on difference in soil. The principal types are described below :-

Mangrove Swamps

These are tidal swamps situated in sheltered places in the estuaries of the larger rivers, the most important being the Sarawak, Rejang and Trusan. The total area is estimated at 460 square miles but only about half of this is true mangrove forest of good quality. The remainder is *nipah* palm or poor forest in the drier parts of the swamps. Mangrove is of little importance as a timber producer, but a valuable source of firewood, charcoal and cutch. The *nipah* palm provides sugar and tnatich.

Peat-swamp Forest

The greater part of the coastal belt is swampy land with a deep peat soil, extending inland for as much as 50 miles in places and covering about 6,000 square miles. About 5,770 square miles of this is still forest of a very valuable type which, because of its accessibility and the quality of some of its timbers, such as *ramin*, now form the chief source of Sarawak's timber supplies. Various distinct sub-types of swamp forest occur. Of these, the most important is Mixed Swamp Forest, in which *ramin* is often the principal tree. Another very distinctive sub-type is *alan* forest in which *Shorea albida* often occurs in almost pure stands; this sub-type is estimated to cover a total area of some 800 square miles.

"Kerangas" or "Heath Forest"

This type of vegetation occur on areas of very poor, acid podsol soils, scattered throughout the country and probably covering several thousand square miles. Much of this forest is of poor quality and even in the better parts the trees are usually of relatively small size but the forests are often of considerable value. In places there are almost pure stands of *ru ronang* (*Casuarina sumatrana*) which provides high quality fuel; and there are also very rich stands of the conifers *bindang* and *sempilor* not otherwise available except on steep and usually inaccessible hills. Where shifting cultivation is widespread, the only forests left are of the *kerangas* type, the soil being too poor for agriculture, and these are invaluable as the only remaining local sources of timber, firewood and other essential forest products.

Riparian Forest

Rather narrow strips of riverine alluvial soils, rarely half a mile in width, carry a special type of forest which appears to vary mainly in accordance with the nature and speed of the rivers. In

the upper reaches of fast-flowing streams, the riparian forest often consists chiefly of various species of *engkabang*, which are the main source of the valuable oil bearing illipe nut. Where the streams change to comparatively slow-flowing rivers the forest often changes too, and *belian* often becomes the most important tree. Riparian forest of this type is probably not more than a few hundred square miles. Much of it has been destroyed by ribbon cultivation along the rivers, and also because of the esteem in which the timber of *belian* has always been held.

Other types

The remaining forest, covering about 25,000 square miles, is found on various less specialised soils. It is very mixed, containing a multitude of species, dominated, however, by Dipterocarps such as *meranti*, *keruing* and *kapur*. It is very dense and the trees attain a fairly large size, the forest canopy being usually about 150 feet above the ground. Below this canopy formed by the larger species, there are several not very sharply defined layers of smaller, shade-bearing trees, but low, herbaceous vegetation is scanty because very little light reaches the ground. Climbing lianes and canes are common, and epiphytes such as orchids grow on the higher branches of the trees.

At the end of 1952, the Forest Department comprised 119 officers of all ranks, including six members of the Colonial Forest Service. The administration is organised on a territorial basis, with an Assistant Conservator or Assistant Forest Officer directly responsible to the Conservator, in charge of each Division. The First and Second Administrative Divisions form one forest charge; the Fourth Administrative Division is divided into two, Miri and Bintulu; and the Assistant Conservator, Fifth Division is also State Forest Officer, Brunei. One Assistant Conservator devotes his whole time to research and the training of field staff.

The principal tasks of the Forest Department at present, apart from the normal routine of general control of exploitation, are the constitution of an adequate, permanent forest estate for both protective and productive purposes, an inventory of forest resources, and the organisation of the management of the permanent timber forests in accordance with the principal of sustained yield. A programme for the first of these objectives has been laid down in the Forestry Development Plan, and progress is satisfactory. During the year, 1,135 square miles of new permanent forests were constituted, and their total area is now 7,506 square miles or 15.9% of the land area of the country; the constitution of a further 2,407 square miles of permanent forest was in progress at the end of the year.

The inventory of forest resources is being carried out by a

variety of methods. In some parts of the country, particularly in the mangrove and peat-swamps, the work is greatly facilitated by aerial photographs, on which the principal forest types can be easily detected; all that is then required is mapping from the photographs with adequate ground checks, and growing stock is assessed by random sampling in each of the forest sub-types. In the inland forests, on the other hand, the work has, up to the present, been done almost entirely by random or systematic sampling on the ground, as the forest types are usually less well defined on the photographs and the absence of numerous clear reference points often makes accurate mapping difficult. A close study of photographs made during the year indicates that not only the principal forest types but also various quality classes in each type may be revealed even on small-scale photographs, provided they are of good quality. When accurate topographical maps to which photographs can be tied become available, it should be possible to apply the methods now used in the swamps to inland forests as well. This will save a great deal of arduous and expensive field work, and also provide more accurate results; but adequate ground survey will always be necessary as very few tree species can be recognised from the air.

A special and difficult problem is an assessment of remaining supplies of *belian*, which is becoming very scarce in accessible places. The tree cannot be recognised from the air, and it usually occurs in rather small, scattered pockets of riparian forest which are not easy to locate. Future policy with reference to this remarkably strong and durable timber is still doubtful and depends on the result of the survey now in progress.

During 1952, forest inventory surveys, in areas hitherto unexamined, covered 124 square miles of permanent forest; the total now covered by these surveys is 1,056 square miles.

Once an inventory and adequate stock-map of an accessible and productive forest have been made, a working plan can be prepared and the timber worked on a basis of sustained yield. Up to the end of 1951, working plans covered only 2 square miles of the permanent forests of the country; but the working of a further 82 square miles was planned in 1952, and plans covering 490 square miles were in course of preparation at the end of the year.

Timber production is mainly in the hands of British, Australian and Chinese firms, and the bulk of the produce is exported, local demand being rather small and erratic. By the end of 1952 there were 47 major sawmills operating in the country as compared with 44 in 1951; they are operated under licence from the Forest Department, whose main concern is to ensure that they are efficiently run and that they have sources of timber supply sufficient to afford them a reasonably long life.

In 1952 the total outturn of timber was 10,727 tons of 50 cubic feet sawn and 180,889 tons of 50 Hoppus feet of logs, representing an increase of 84% over the total cut in 1951. Towards the end of the year the local demand for timber slumped, but exports continued to increase and apparently paid little attention to a world slump in tropical hardwoods that occurred about the middle of the year. The total quantity exported was 28,088 cubic tons sawn and 71,638 Hoppus tons of logs, an increase of 83% over exports in 1951. The percentage of sawn timber exported was 44% of the total cut in terms of round timber, as compared with 43% in 1951. The principal importing countries were Great Britain, Hong Kong and various parts of Borneo, in that order; and smaller quantities were sent to Australia, Singapore, South Africa, Japan, Holland, and Germany.

Ramin made up 51% of total timber exports. This timber can now be regarded as firmly established on several high grade markets such as Great Britain and appears to be holding its own in competition with certain favoured and rather similar timbers such as European Beech. The tree, however, offers some difficult silvicultural problems, and in any case in the very mixed forests of Sarawak it is desirable that the exploitation of as many species as possible should be encouraged. Apart from *ramin*, 24 kinds of timber were exported under their own name during the year, the most important being *meranti*, *medang jongkong*, *kapur*, and *petir*. The export of *belian* is forbidden except for Government use in Brunei, and by permission in special cases.

The declared f.o.b. value of timber exported during the year was \$8,925,910 as compared with \$4,727,834 in 1951; and that of other forest products totalled \$3,834,296 compared with \$3,823,855 in 1951, the most important minor products being wild rubbers, damar and cutch. The illipe nut crop again failed.

For basic forestry research, Sarawak depends mainly on the Forest Research Institute of the Federation of Malaya, towards which it contributes a small sum annually, but a considerable amount of work must necessarily be done locally. The most urgent need is for a more complete knowledge of the tree species and of the timbers that they produce. The year 1952 showed a marked improvement in the volume of botanical work carried out, particularly in the swamp forests, but much remains to be done. The Forest Department is also concerned with trial plantings on poor or degraded soils, and experiments with various species, notably mahogany and *durian*, were continued.

The following statement gives comparative figures of direct forest revenue and expenditure for the years 1951-1952.

	1951.	1952.
Revenue ...	\$ 486,773	\$ 856,571
Expenditure ...	238,907	314,508
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus ...	\$ 247,826	\$ 542,063

The expenditure for 1952 quoted above includes \$57,434 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds.

Export duties on minor forest produce, collected by the Department of Trade and Customs, amounted to \$373,253, as compared with 354,999 in 1951. The chief contributors towards this revenue were *getah*, *jelutong* and *damar*.

MINERAL RESOURCES AND MINING

It is probable that for about a thousand years minerals have been worked in Borneo, first gold and diamonds, then antimony, mercury and coal, later oil. Mining has always been important to the life of the region, and today plays a prominent part in the region's economy. Between 1850 and 1900 an energetic search was made for mineral deposits, particularly coal, also antimony, mercury and gold. Investigations were made by individuals employed by private concerns as well as by the State Government, but little of the information resulting from the work was published, and records available are insufficient for assessing the full extent of the investigations. But after the discovery, in 1823, that antimony ore had a ready market, minerals figured prominently in the economy. Until about 1885, antimony ore was the most important mineral produced and often the leading export. Mercury was the leading mineral product for five of the six years between 1874 and 1879, but after 1887 output declined and ten years later was negligible. Coal was the main mineral export between 1889 and 1898, after which gold took its place and headed the list continuously from 1899 until 1920. From this time onwards oil has been the leading mineral export.

PAST SARAWAK MINERAL EXPORTS

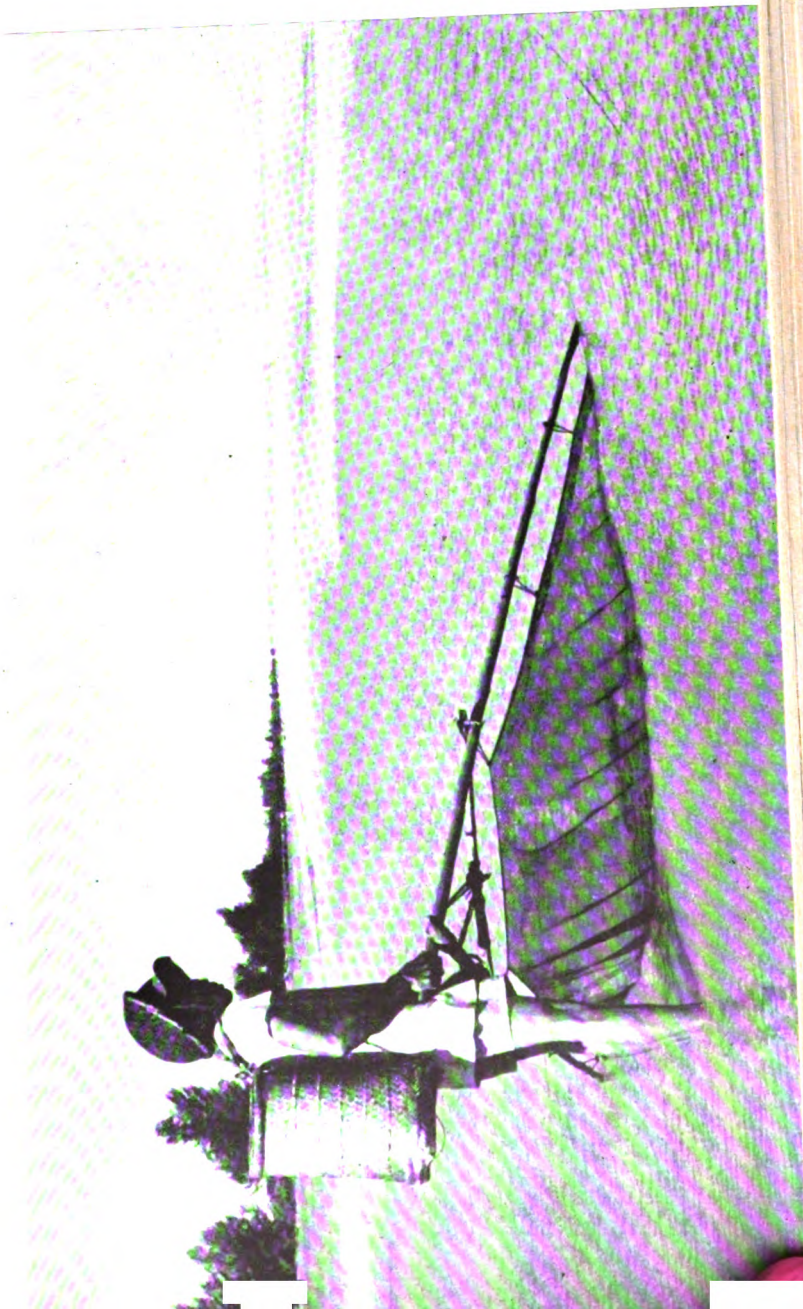
Year	Value of Sarawak produce exported	Value of mineral exports	Percentage of mineral exports to exports of Sarawak produce	Mineral royalties paid to the Sarawak Government	Mineral exports in their order of value; the most valuable export is shown first
1868	N.A.	38,001	—	N.A.	antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds
1878	809,325	83,086	10	13,333	antimony, quicksilver, gold, diamonds
1888	1,322,325	118,915	9	8,889	antimony, coal, quicksilver, gold
1898	3,089,017	323,230	10	10,177	coal, antimony, gold, quicksilver
1908	5,732,723	1,177,266	21	77,367	gold, coal, antimony, quicksilver
1918	9,221,459	N.A.	—	98,109	gold, oil, coal
1928	53,302,340	39,208,846	74	770,835	oil
1938	23,244,666	12,482,134	54	387,636	oil, gold, silver
1948	166,023,615	111,820,069	67	94,448	oil†, gold, antimony

All values are given in Sarawak dollars, fixed at 2s.4d sterling since 1906

N. A. = not available

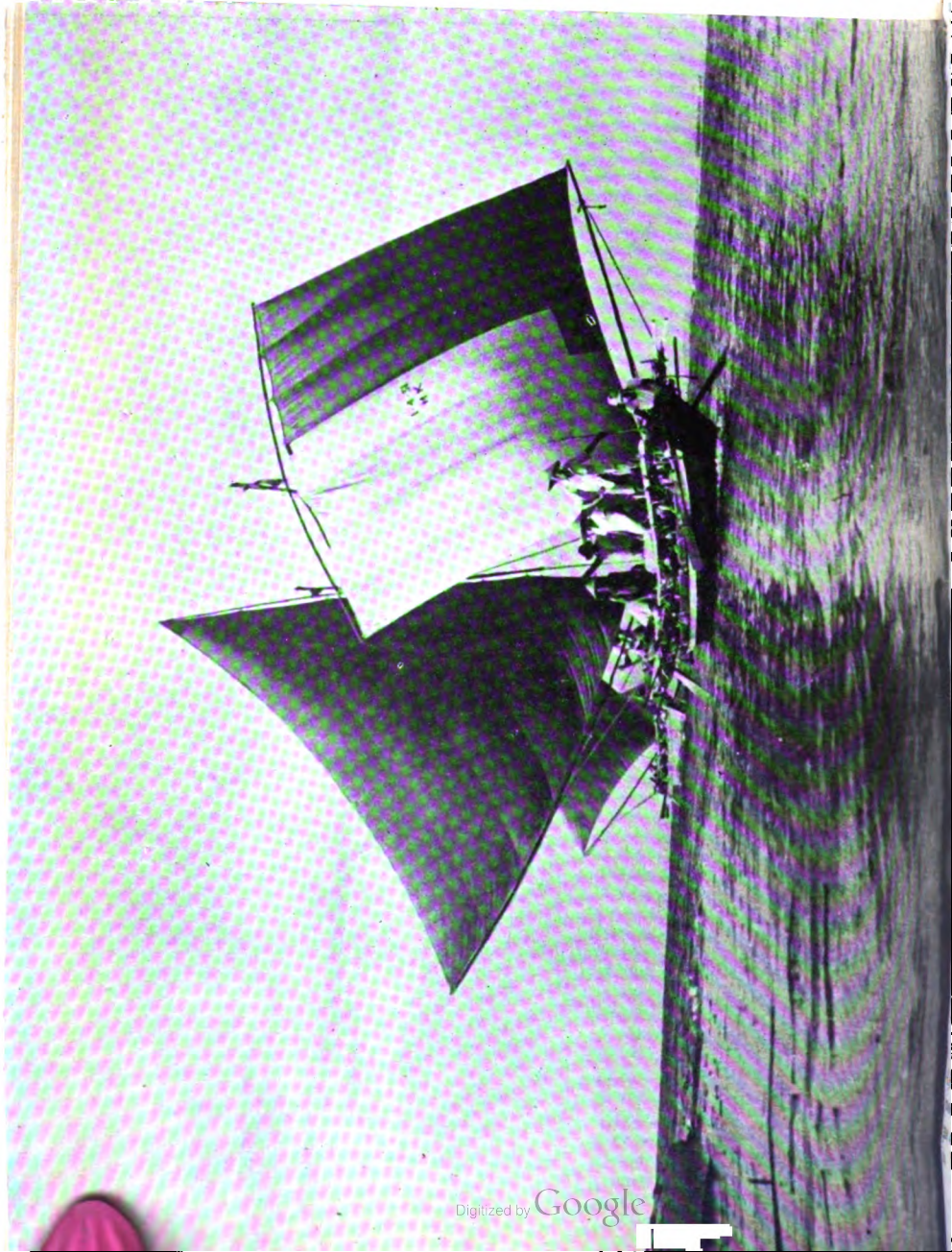
† Most of the oil exported from Sarawak during 1948 was produced in Brunei

Fisheries - a 'p'u ka'e
Melanau Island, near
Kampong Jutan, Mor
ka h, fishing for
shrimps and small fish
at low water near Oya



I. A. N. Urquhart

Fisheries—a 'baro
or 'panau' boat
tering the Mukah ri
on, return from t
fishing grounds



MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1952

The output of minerals and mineral products during 1952 consisted of oil, gold, phosphate, bricks and tiles, lime and stone. Their estimated value was \$3,525,393 and over \$177,635 was paid as direct revenue in royalties and mining rents. The value of mineral exports was \$307,188,374 and consisted of oil and gold. Most of this oil came from Brunei, was piped to Sarawak, and some of it treated at the Lutong Refinery; exports comprised crude oil, gasoline, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, diesel fuel and diesel fuel bunkers. The oil industry, a Shell Group organisation, operates on a large scale using modern methods. The other mineral industries are mainly small Chinese concerns; gold mines in operation number 5 and are situated in the Upper Sarawak District; building materials are produced at the three main towns, Kuching, Sibu and Miri.

Mining leases in 1952 were 25 and covered 3,939 acres; this is the only land in the country reserved for mining. Sarawak Oilfields Limited holds general oil rights over the whole country. During 1952 the search for oil continued. Prospecting for bauxite by the British Aluminium Company Limited took place during the early part of the year in the Third Division, but stopped before the end of the year. Gold prospecting was mainly limited to the Upper Sarawak District where tests were made by the Borneo Company Limited and a few local Chinese prospectors. A table of the 1952 mineral output is given at the end of this chapter.

Oil

Sarawak has long been a producer of oil, and production from the Miri field in 1952 totalled 359,194 barrels, valued at \$2,566,682; this was obtained from 132 pumping wells. The production of oil in Sarawak resulted from geological investigations started in 1909 on behalf of the Royal Dutch-Shell Group. The first shipment was made in April, 1913, and production has since been continuous, the total up to December, 1952 being 72,393,844 U.S. barrels—this includes the production estimated to have been made during the enemy occupation of the country. Over \$10,000,000 in direct royalties has been paid to the Government of Sarawak. Although Miri production is decreasing, the search for new oilfields is being energetically carried out over a wide area of Sarawak.

During 1952 field expeditions worked at widely separated localities in Sarawak, building up the geological and geophysical information needed before expensive exploratory wildcat holes are drilled.

Oil from British Borneo is exported via Lutong in Sarawak, and 4,952,045 long tons valued at \$307,097,941 were shipped; most was crude oil but in addition gasoline, diesel oil, kerosene, gas oil and fuel oil were exported. The Lutong Refinery output in United States barrels during 1952 was gasoline 4,000,200;

kerosene 2, '00; gas oil 93,200; diesel fuel 8,655,700; and fuel oil 2,799,700.

Gold

Sarawak gold production from 1864 to 1951 was 1,211,442 fine ounces, bringing the Government a direct revenue of over \$2,500,000 in royalties, rent and licence fees. The peak period of production followed the introduction of scientific mining methods and the cyanide process by the Borneo Company Limited in 1899, and between then and 1922, nearly 1,000,000 fine ounces were produced; since then work has been confined to small-scale operations by Chinese miners. The largest recent output was 1,523 fine ounces in 1949. The Upper Sarawak gold field has been the source of practically all the gold produced and has often been prospected in the past. Whether it can regain its former importance is doubtful.

The gold export in 1952 was 898 fine ounces valued at \$90,433. Five small Chinese mines operating in Upper Sarawak produced 843 fine ounces; in 1951 six mines were working and 931 fine ounces were obtained.

Phosphate

In the form of guano phosphate occurs in many of the limestone caves in Sarawak. It is a resource of importance, being a valuable fertiliser in a region where agriculture is a main occupation, and much of the soil poor. The geological survey department has therefore investigated the deposits by mapping the caves and pitting the guano. Phosphate is worked on a small scale for local use at a number of places; the largest deposits, at Niah caves, are worked under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture.

Phosphate production during 1952 of 696 long tons was the highest yet obtained: the value was \$93,600 and a royalty of \$13,698 was paid to Government. Deposits containing about 2,000 tons of guano have been examined at Gunong Staat, south of Kuching, and small amounts have been found in caves at Gunong Selabor, south of Serian.

The Niah caves are estimated to contain about 29,000 tons of phosphate; they consist of about two miles of explored passages and cover an area of about 24 acres. The phosphate deposits originate from the accumulation, during thousands of years, of bat and swift droppings and insect remains; reaction with limestone has resulted in the formation of rock phosphate. The bulk of the guano is dry to slightly damp, although at a few localities it is saturated with water. Guano more than six inches in thickness covers about 150,000 square feet in the caves; the average depth of the main occurrences is 11 feet. The greatest depth of phosphate found was 29 feet.

Coal

The best known coal deposits are at Sadong, the Silantek-Abok area, and in the Bintulu and Mukah districts. Certain deposits are reported to contain coal of good quality, but development has been hindered by inaccessibility, competition from coal exported from Europe, and the small market in the country itself.

A geological survey has been made in the Silantek area of west Sarawak where coal occurs. The survey attempted to determine whether the good quality coal, known to be present in these deposits, was available in sufficient quantities to repay mining. Work at Silantek indicates that about 3,500,000 tons might be mined and there are possibilities of a larger tonnage. A programme for testing the estimate of the tonnage of coal has been prepared. In view of the growing industrialization of Australia and the Far East, and the possible development of iron ore deposits in neighbouring territories, there might in the future be a regional market for coals with coking qualities.

Antimony

The main deposits of antimony ore are in Upper Sarawak and consist mostly of the sulphide, stibnite; there was no recorded mining of this mineral during 1952.

Mercury

Mercury occurs mainly as the sulphide, cinnabar, but small amounts of the metal itself have been recorded: no ore was worked during 1952.

Building Materials and Roadstone

Building materials produced comprise brick, tiles, lime, stone, and gravel; the value of the 1952 output is estimated at \$774,678. The industry is mainly run by Sarawak Chinese and operates on a small scale serving local requirements round Kuching, Sibu and Miri. Should the demand become larger, the output can be increased. Kuching, in the most developed part of the country, had the largest and most varied production of constructional materials. Bricks totalled 1,001,500; tiles numbered 229,000 valued at \$30,100 and the lime output was 1,637 long tons estimated to be worth \$165,000. The clay and sand used for brick and tile manufacture came from the valley of the Sarawak River, and the limestone used for making lime from Gunong Staat. Building materials were also produced at the other two main population centres of Sibu and Miri. In the Third Division Sibu district had a production of 300,000 clay bricks valued at \$45,000, kilns being operated at Binatang, Durin and Sungai Sedik; in 1951 the production of clay bricks was 775,000 but decreased in 1952 owing to clay bricks

rising in price, and concrete bricks being used instead. Gravel worked in the Third Division totalled 14,000 cubic yards valued at \$164,000. At Miri 575,500 bricks were produced by two companies, 980 tons of local clay and 103 tons of sea sand were used. The estimated average values during 1952 were as follows: clay bricks were \$110 per thousand in Kuching, and \$150 in Sibul; tiles \$140 per thousand and lime \$6 per pikul (16.8 pikuls equal 1 long ton).

Stone production recorded in 1952 was 43,000 cubic yards with an estimated value of \$200,000. Most of the stone was used for road construction and road repairs.

Stone supplies are a difficulty over most of Sarawak, but fortunately in the west there are occurrences of accessible good quality rock. Geological investigations were made to find stone that could be readily quarried and was accessible for water transport. At Sebuyau on the west coast such an occurrence has been found and millions of tons of good quality rock are available and accessible. Sebuyau hill is built of granite and rises to 555 feet; here are excellent quarry sites; it is situated by a river about half a mile from the sea, and most of the usual coastal shipping difficulties appear to be absent. The Government proposes to work this stone to supply the growing towns of Sibul, Sarikei and Binatang in the Rejang estuary.

Aluminium ore

First discovered in 1949 in West Sarawak, this was prospected up to 1952 by geologists and mining engineers of the British Aluminium Company Limited. In the Sematan area, where bauxite was first found, about 5,500,000 tons of ore are possibly worth working. This occurs in three deposits; Munggu Belian, Bukit Gebong and Tanjong Serabang.

SARAWAK MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1952

MINERAL	PRODUCTION	REMARKS
Oil	359,194 United States barrels	Valued at \$2,566,682; royalty estimated at \$155,331 Oil exports from Sarawak totalled 4,952,045 long tons valued at \$307,097,941 and included gasoline, diesel, kerosene, gas oil, fuel oil, and crude oil. Most of this oil was produced in Brunei but piped to Sarawak and some of it treated at Lutong Refinery before being exported
Gold	843 fine ounces	Valued at \$90,433; a royalty of \$4,522 was collected, and mining rents yielded \$4,084. The output came from 5 mines in Upper Sarawak
Phosphate	696 long tons	Valued at \$93,600; royalty paid was \$13,698. Extracted from Niah Caves, Bukit Subis, Fourth Division
Bricks & Tiles	1,858,500 bricks 229,000 tiles	Estimated value of bricks made is \$215,578 and of tiles \$30,100. The output of 4 concerns at Kuching was 1,001,500 bricks; around Sibu 3 companies produced 300,000 clay bricks, and at Miri 2 companies made 557,000 bricks
Lime	1,637 long tons	Estimated value \$165,000. Made in the Kuching area by Chop Mong Soon, Ban Hin Company, and Swee Huat Seng
Stone	43,000 cubic yards	Estimated value approximately \$200,000. This stone, produced in the First Division, came mostly from the 7th mile quarry: small amounts came from workings at the 18th and 28th miles and at Bau. Only negligible quantities of stone were worked elsewhere in Sarawak.
Gravel	14,000 cubic yards	Estimated value \$164,000. This gravel was worked in the Third Division from the Rejang valley

Values are in Straits dollars, \$1 being worth 2s. 4d.

Chapter IX

SOCIAL SERVICES

EDUCATION

General and Administration

The senior staff approved for the Education Department at the beginning of 1952 consisted of a Director, a Deputy Director and fifteen Education Officers. During the year an additional post of Education Officer was created and filled in December by the secondment of an officer from Hong Kong. The vacancy for an Education Officer for duty in the Second Division was filled by the arrival of an officer in October. A woman Education Officer was appointed to the staff of the Rural Improvement School, Kanowit. At the end of the year four vacancies for men Education Officers and one vacancy for a woman Education Officer remained unfilled.

From the beginning of 1952 five of the more able and experienced of the trained teachers, Grade IIIA, acted as Group Supervisors and were able to visit and help vernacular primary schools in their areas.

The standard of staffing in all types of school continued to improve. Four of the staff of the Batu Lintang Training Centre and School successfully passed their examinations and were certificated as Grade IIA teachers. The third output of certificated teachers, Grade IIIA, from the Centre, numbering 30 (not including 10 Brunei students) benefited rural primary schools under the management of Government, Local Authorities, Missions and Private Committees. There was a small but important increase in the number of qualified and experienced staff in the secondary sections of the urban Mission Schools.

A new group of student teachers was admitted in 1952 to the Batu Lintang Training Centre for training as Grade IIA teachers, with a minimum academic qualification of Form III or its Chinese equivalent, for service in Mission or Chinese Schools. These students will become teachers of general subjects in urban Mission Schools and teachers of English in Chinese Schools.

The problem of providing professional training for Chinese teachers has not yet been solved but it is hoped that the course at Batu Lintang will at least begin to meet the demand for English teachers in these schools.

The usual Vacation Course for Chinese Teachers in the Third Division was held at Sibu in June and attracted about a hundred

young teachers. For the first time the subject of Physical Training and Games was introduced and a demonstration class of children was used in illustrating English teaching. A short course for Local Authority teachers in the Simanggang area was organised by the Group Supervisor of Schools during the December holiday.

There was a further increase in the number of children attending school in 1952. The following table shows how the total enrolment has risen during recent years:-

1941	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
22,344	33,464	35,528	39,656	42,284	45,573

The continued expansion during 1952 was satisfactory especially as it occurred over a period when prices of the main primary products dropped. Sustained enthusiasm for education was most marked among the urban populations and those sections of the community which for many years have been aware of the value of literacy. In rural areas the situation among the indigenous peoples was less encouraging. The number of Malay and other indigenous children attending school at the end of 1952 was approximately 12,000. The figure in 1948 was 8,600. In view of the considerable number of schools that have been opened in these areas during the period concerned, and the efforts that have been made to train teachers for these schools, the increase is disappointingly small.

The demand for education, which was reported to be wide-spread among the indigenous peoples in the years immediately following the Liberation, has not proved to be a sustained keenness. After an initial effort during which a school is constructed, and opened with an enrolment which includes a large proportion of over-age pupils, enthusiasm in too many cases begins to weaken.

The over-age pupils, after acquiring a basic minimum of literacy, turn their attention to adult occupations and leave the school. Parents do not appreciate the need for regular attendance and remove their children for long periods to assist them in farming operations. In some cases it is found that with the removal of the over-age pupils there are not enough children reaching school age each year to maintain a reasonable enrolment.

Progress however is being made, if more slowly than was hoped. The 12,000 Malay and other indigenous children now in school are of more suitable age, and in most cases being better taught, than the 8,600 children who were in schools in 1948. This improvement is particularly noticeable in the annual intakes from rural schools into the post-primary classes at Batu Lintang: each year the pupils admitted have been younger in age and of higher academic standard.

Secondary education in both English and Chinese sections continued to expand. The 248 entries from the Kuching and Sibu Mission

Schools for the Cambridge Examinations at the end of 1952 were more than double the number of the previous year. For the first time a few candidates attempted individual subjects in the Higher School Certificate Examination and all School Certificate candidates were for the first time examined in Oral English. The boarding hostels at these schools continued to make improvements, with better organisation for study and recreation outside classroom hours.

Increased attention is now being paid to the teaching of General Science in the Boys' Schools and to Domestic Science in the Girls' Schools. In November the Secretary of State approved a grant of \$150,000 (£17,500) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act for a scheme of grants-in-aid, on a 50% basis, towards the cost of erecting and equipping science laboratories for the secondary forms of selected Aided Schools. The scheme is limited at the present stage to the three schools which are now in a position to establish a "Senior Secondary Course".

In October approval was received from the Secretary of State for a grant of \$80,000 (£9,334) from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for a similar scheme of assistance on a 50% basis towards the capital expenditure of erecting and equipping Domestic Science Rooms in selected Aided Girls' Schools. The scheme is at present limited to assisting four schools with the establishment of "Junior Secondary" Courses in Domestic Science.

The demand for secondary education in the Chinese school system increased and plans were prepared for new Junior Middle Schools at Sibu and Miri, and a Senior Middle School at Sarikei. Both Middle and Primary Chinese schools continued to pay attention to the important need to improve the teaching of English. To encourage and assist managements to employ teachers of English, a special grant from Central Government Funds was introduced during the year in respect of the salaries of these teachers in Aided Chinese Schools. The Sibu District Councils applied the same scheme to the Chinese schools which they aided.

The total increase in the number of girls at school was over 2,000. This brought the percentage of girls in school from 31 per cent of the total enrolment in 1951 to 34 per cent in 1952. As was to be expected, the increase was mostly in the Chinese school system. The number of girls of the indigenous peoples attending school is still small. This is partly due to the distances which separate the longhouses and to the understandable reluctance of those parents who live far from the school to send their daughters to live away from home.

Although the number of girls of all races who continue their education into the secondary forms is still far too low, there was a marked increase in the numbers enrolled in these forms during 1952. In the Mission English schools however very few girls continue their

education after they have obtained a Form III Certificate, which is the minimum qualification for entry into most branches of Government service or into business employment. In consequence the numbers taking the Cambridge examinations remains low and those professions which require educated women are seriously handicapped.

At the end of the year there were some 30 Sarawak boys from all Divisions undergoing training at the Trade Schools in Seria, by the kind co-operation of the British Malayan Petroleum Company. The Revised Development Plan includes sums of considerable magnitude for the development of Trade, Technical and Commercial Education; but the extent to which the programme can be implemented in the near future will be mainly governed by the practicability of recruiting qualified instructors.

At the beginning of the year responsibility for primary education in the Sibü area was handed over to two multi-racial Councils. The Sibü Urban District Council became responsible for one former Government School, three Mission-Aided English schools and nine aided Chinese-language schools under the management of Mission bodies or private committees. The Rural District Council became responsible for six schools formerly controlled by the Sibü Dayak Local Authority and twenty-six Aided Chinese schools. The Councils showed a vigorous and broadminded spirit in tackling the complex problems involved in the control and financing of these schools.

Communist agencies continued their efforts to infiltrate into Chinese schools. At a small number of schools there was evidence that groups of teachers and senior pupils with guidance from persons outside the school, were introducing communist doctrine and instigating acts of indiscipline towards the school authorities.

Action against this state of affairs proceeded on two lines. First, prompt action was taken against the subversive elements. Registration as new teachers was refused to some applicants whose school careers had been unsatisfactory. It was also necessary to require that some over-age pupils, who had acted as ring-leaders, should leave school. Secondly, efforts were made to impress upon parents a greater sense of responsibility for the character and conduct of their children; school managements were urged to make arrangements for the supervision of pupils from outstations and managements and other authorities were encouraged to provide recreation and training outside the hours of classroom study.

The Sibü Urban District Council responded by inaugurating a successful series of inter-community sporting and dramatic competitions between the various schools within the area. These constructive efforts to improve the discipline and tone of Chinese schools and to guide managements in problems of staff and control were likely to be further strengthened by the appointment in

December of a Chinese Education Officer on secondment from Hong Kong.

Any major improvement in the Chinese schools of this region will require the introduction of text-books more suitable than those now generally in use. During the year a Chinese Textbook Committee, composed of official members of the Governments of the Federation of Malaya, and of Singapore, and unofficial members representing various teachers associations, was formed in Malaya to plan the production of the best possible textbooks for Chinese schools in Malaya and Singapore. Sarawak is greatly interested in the work of this committee and hopes to be closely associated with the production of the textbooks in order to ensure that they contain material which makes them suitable for use in the Chinese schools of Sarawak.

Fifteen scholarships or fellowships for further education and training overseas were awarded during the year under schemes promoted by the Governments of Sarawak, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, in some cases in co-operation with UNESCO, and by the World Health Organisation. Since the end of the war more than seventy students have been sent overseas, under various scholarship schemes, on courses of training covering thirty different subjects.

Sarawak continued to maintain close and cordial relationships with the University of Malaya and made a small contribution towards the University's annual expenditure. During 1952 three Sarawak students qualified for degrees in Medicine and a further two for degrees in Arts.

Two arithmetic books in the Sea Dayak language were published during the year. A collection of Land Dayak folk-stories was published under arrangements made by the Anglican Mission, to serve as a reader for primary schools. Various new vernacular text-books produced in the Federation of Malaya were introduced into Malay Schools.

Finance:

The following figures indicate the increasing expenditure from official funds on educational services:

	1940	1951	1952 (estimate)
Central Government Funds	\$166,881	578,912	1,094,303
Local Authority Funds	nil	119,048	248,675
Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes	nil	174,875	234,742
Total	\$166,881 £ 19,469	\$872,835 £101,847	\$1,577,720 £ 184,067

It was estimated that during 1952 the Mission Authorities spent approximately \$713,000 (£83,183) and the Management of Chinese schools some \$2,500,000 (£291,667) on educational services. These amounts were mainly derived from school-fees and subscriptions and were additional to grants-in-aid from Government or Local Authority Funds. The figures quoted above do not take into account the value of contributions made by school committees, in money or in materials, for the construction and maintenance of school buildings and furniture in rural areas.

Government Schools

At the end of 1952 there were 41 Government Schools including the Batu Lintang School, staffed by 103 teachers and with 3,423 pupils on the roll. The corresponding figures for 1951 were 45 schools with 105 teachers and 3,641 pupils. Three Government Schools were taken over by Local Authorities during the year, and in one town a Boys' School and a Girls' School were combined into a single school. Enrolments in most schools showed little change from the previous year.

At most of the Government Schools the local people are now required to provide and maintain the school buildings, furniture and teachers' quarters. During 1952 new buildings were erected by the local people at three schools. Plans were being made, and materials and money collected, at three other schools which were expected to be rebuilt in 1953.

The teachers' emoluments and the cost of equipment are met from Government funds. Pupils are required to provide their own stationery. School Committees with advisory powers function at a number of these schools.

No fees are charged in Government Schools. In this respect these schools differ from most Local Authority Schools, Private Schools and other types of school in Sarawak. For some time it had been thought that this differentiation was unjustifiable and that it was not good for the self-respect of the people concerned to continue to receive free a service for which others had to pay.

There are reasons also for thinking that the introduction of fees will eventually lead to improvements in these schools, since it appears that the payment of fees leads to a greater appreciation of the value of education and therefore to better support from parents. These matters were discussed at length with leaders of the people who gave general support to the proposal to introduce fees in Government Schools in 1953. A rate of fees was fixed within the means of the great majority of the parents concerned and a system of remissions was approved for necessitous cases. The Government Schools will be re-named 'District Schools' in 1953.

With the exception of the Batu Lintang School and of one school in Kuching at which post-primary classes have been established, all

these schools cater for the primary course only. The vernacular is the medium of instruction. There is now a strong demand for the teaching of English. This has been met by the engagement of English-speaking teachers in a few of the larger schools, and by the inclusion of English in the curriculum of the Teacher Training Centre. By the end of 1952 trained teachers from the Centre who had been posted to Government Primary Schools numbered 31 and most of these were able to introduce the teaching of English as a subject.

At the Government School at Batu Lintang, which is run in conjunction with the Teacher Training Centre, post-primary academic courses were held for boys who had completed the primary course in vernacular schools. 25 new pupils were admitted at the beginning of 1952, bringing the total in these classes to 71, including 12 from Brunei.

Local Authority Schools

The following table shows the growth of the Local Authority School system since its inception at the beginning of 1948.

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
No. of Schools	18	40	67	74	94
No. of Teachers	21	50	77	90	113
No. of Pupils	804	1,625	2,545	2,868	3,428

The increase in the number of schools during 1952 does not in fact represent any remarkable expansion of education in the areas concerned. Six of the twenty additional schools were schools already in existence which Local Authorities took over from Government or from Private Committees. Of the remaining fourteen schools, some had been opened in 1951 but had not been included in statistical returns. Several schools had to close during the year owing to lack of pupils.

Although holidays were fixed at each school to meet the needs of farming seasons and religious celebrations, attendance was still far from satisfactory. The proportion of pupils who remain in school for more than two years is small. This is partly due to the fact that many pupils are beyond the proper age on admission. Parents are unwilling to send young children to school when it necessitates a long daily journey or the making of arrangements for their children to board near the school during term time.

The siting of schools among the scattered rural population of Sarawak presents many problems. Supervision is still far from adequate. It has not yet been possible to recruit an Education Officer for the Fourth Division; but the appointment of an officer for the Second Division, and of 5 Group Supervisors should effect considerable improvement.

Probably the greatest single factor accounting for the slowness

of progress is lack of sufficient support from parents and school committees. It may take several years before some of the rural peoples begin to appreciate the benefits of education and to understand the sacrifices necessary.

In an attempt to improve the rate of progress, several local authorities are now concerning themselves with Education Rules and particularly with arrangements to ensure that pupils satisfactorily complete the four-year course.

Many Local Authorities raise additional revenue for education by charging education rates, cesses or school fees. Local Authorities estimated to raise by these means more than \$39,000 during 1952.

Private School or Village Committee Schools

In areas where no Local Authority had yet been formed the indigenous peoples were encouraged in the meantime to open schools under the management of committees comprising local representatives. These "Village Committee Schools" or "Private Schools" are eligible for financial assistance from Government.

There were 36 schools of this type at the end of 1952 with 49 teachers and 1,758 pupils. The corresponding figures for 1951 were 30 schools with 41 teachers and 1,408 pupils. Four Private Schools were taken over during the year by Local Authorities or Missions and a few schools ceased to function.

New Private Aided Schools established during the year included a promising number established in Malay kampongs, especially in the First Division with encouragement and assistance from the Group Supervisor of Schools. Two Private Aided Schools were established in upriver areas, one in the Kelabit country and the other among a Kayan community in the Ulu Balui, under young trained teachers who had been selected from the peoples concerned. It remains to be seen whether such schools will prosper, under young and inexperienced teachers, in areas so remote that they can be only rarely visited.

Grants from Central Government funds amounting to approximately \$11,813 (£1,378), as compared with \$7,245 (£845) were paid during the year to those schools which applied for assistance. A number of Private Schools received professional guidance from Mission representatives in the area.

Mission Schools

At the end of the year there were 71 of these schools with 218 teachers and 8,277 pupils. At the end of the previous year there were 69 schools with 263 teachers and 7,988 pupils. Of the two new schools registered in 1952, one was an existing school taken over from a Private Committee and the other was a school in the First Division which was re-opened during the year. The decrease in the number of teachers employed relates to teachers in the Chinese sections of some of these schools which have now been registered,

with their teachers, as separate Chinese Schools.

Grants from Central Government amounting to approximately \$128,620 (£16,006) were paid to Mission Schools during the year. The following table shows the grants from Central Government funds which have been paid to these schools during the last five years.

	Pupils	Grant
1948	5,743	\$ 74,500
1949	6,550	85,942
1950	7,166	93,849
1951	7,988	122,140
1952	8,277	128,620

In addition several Local Authorities gave financial assistance to Mission Primary Schools in their areas.

Provisional figures indicate that in 1952 the Authorities spent about \$30,000 (£3,500) on grants-in-aid to these schools. For the urban schools which cater mainly for the Chinese the grant from Central Government was calculated on a percentage of the salaries of approved staff while a more favourable formula was in force for the rural schools catering for the indigenous peoples. The rate of grant for rural schools employing trained teachers was increased during the year to enable managements to maintain the emoluments of these teachers at the same figure as would be paid to similar teachers in the Government Service.

In the urban schools English is the medium of instruction and these schools provide a large proportion of the entrants to the Government Service. At twelve of these schools secondary classes were provided in which 1,431 pupils were enrolled. 170 candidates from these schools entered for the Cambridge Junior School Certificate at the end of 1952. In the previous year there were 84 entrants of whom 76 were successful.

Classes for the Cambridge School Certificate were held at five schools and 80 candidates, of whom only five were girls, sat for this examination at the end of 1952. In 1951 there were 45 candidates for the School Certificate, of whom 35 were successful. For the first time there were five candidates taking single subjects for the Higher School Certificate Examination, of whom three were successful.

Some of the larger Mission Schools in urban areas made considerable extensions and improvements to their buildings. In three large schools permanent science blocks are in course of erection which will enable this subject to be taught up to the Higher School Certificate standard. One domestic science block was completed in 1952 and candidates from this Girls' School are being entered for needlework in the Cambridge Junior Certificate Examination.

More teachers with science qualifications joined the Mission School

staffs during the year. For the first time 28 boys took general science in the School Certificate Examination for 1952. Oral English was introduced into the School Certificate Examination for this year. 86 candidates (including private candidates) were examined by two Divisional Education Officers appointed by the Cambridge Syndicate.

Mission Schools in rural areas recorded some progress during the year particularly where trained teachers were employed with guidance from Mission priests. In these schools the vernacular is the medium of instruction, English being taught as a subject.

Chinese Schools

There were 226 Chinese Schools at the end of 1952, with 937 teachers and 28,668 pupils. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 216 schools with 874 teachers and 26,365 pupils. Of the ten additional schools, four were new schools, two were schools which re-opened after having temporarily closed for financial reasons in 1951, and four were Chinese-language sections of Mission Schools which during the year were registered as separate Chinese Schools.

Most Chinese Schools are controlled by committees elected annually by the local community. Funds are provided by school fees from pupils and by donations and subscriptions from Associations and individuals. "Block" grants, assessed on enrolment and efficiency, are paid to Chinese Schools on the Aided List.

In addition most of these schools qualified for a special grant in respect of teachers of English of an approved standard. Total grants amounting to approximately \$66,250 (£7,279) as compared with \$54,035 (£6,315) in 1951 were paid from Central Government funds in respect of recurrent expenditure at 51 Aided Chinese Schools with a total enrolment of 10,450 pupils. 40 Chinese Schools with an enrolment of 6,062 pupils were aided by four Local Authorities. The two Sibu District Councils paid \$24,808 (£2,894) in grants to Chinese Schools during 1952.

There were 3 Junior Middle Schools, and 10 schools, compared with 7 in the previous year, had combined Primary and Middle Departments. The three additional Middle Departments were in schools in the Third Division. A Senior Middle Course was held at two schools. At the end of 1952 there were 2,033 pupils in the Middle sections of the Chinese School system compared with 1,175 at the end of the previous year.

The Chinese "National Language", Kuo-Yu, is the language of instruction in Chinese Schools in Sarawak but increased attention has been given to the teaching of English as a subject.

The Common Examinations Board of the Chinese Schools in the Third Division continued to function satisfactorily. In December Common Examinations for the Primary and Junior Middle certi-

fications for all Chinese Schools in the Third Division were successfully conducted in Sibu.

A disappointingly low proportion of teachers in this section regard teaching as a career, and the short-term contracts offered by most Boards of Management result in a feeling of insecurity amongst teachers. As a result there is little continuity in staffing at most schools as resignations and transfers are far too common a feature.

Teacher Training

Teacher-training is carried on at Batu Lintang near Kuching at a Centre which serves the whole country. The staff consists of a Principal, two Assistant Principals representing the Anglican and Roman Catholic Missions, and an assistant staff composed of local teachers and two teachers on secondment from Great Britain, one with qualifications in Handwork and Physical Training and the other a woman teacher trained in Infant and Junior methods.

The co-operation of Government and Missions in training at one institution teachers for all types of school is a most important feature of the Centre, where students of many races, religions and languages have successfully developed a mutual understanding and a corporate spirit.

The Training Centre is financed under a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme which expires at the end of March 1953 when the Centre will be financed solely from local funds.

All student teachers receive free board, tuition and transport, and a system of personal and family allowances ensures that any promising student can benefit from the scheme regardless of the financial circumstances of his family.

There are two courses for teachers depending on their academic standard at the time of admission. Both courses are at present of two years' duration.

The course for the Grade IIIA Certificate caters for student-teachers with a standard of approximately Primary IV. For the Grade IIA course a minimum qualification of Form III is required.

Both courses include the study of English, for which there is a demand from all peoples, and some academic subjects, as well as a practical knowledge of teaching principles and methods and of school organisation. Emphasis is also laid on the need to maintain and develop traditional skills and aspects of indigenous cultures. Religious instruction is arranged for both Christian and Muslim students and chapels are provided for different sects.

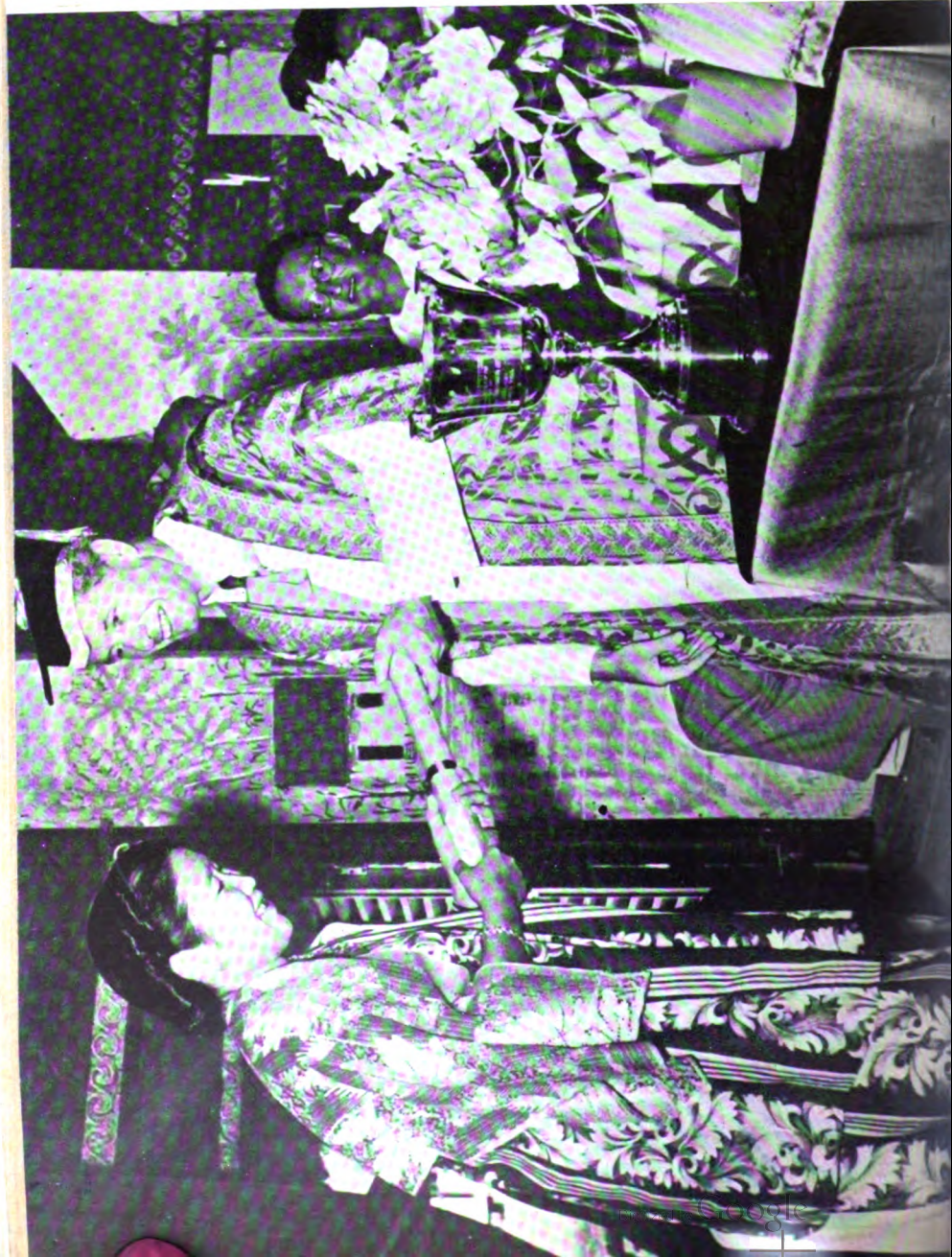
There were 87 student-teachers taking the Grade IIIA Course in 1952. At the end of the year 30 Sarawak students and 10 students from the neighbouring State of Brunei qualified for IIIA Certificates and the former were posted to Government, Local Authority, Private and Mission Schools throughout the country. Three of the Sarawak students who graduated were women. The total number of certi-

Science in the School
—a class at a girls
secondary school in
Kuching



Allas & Son

Education—the R
Hon. Malcolm Ma
Donald, as Chancellor
of the University
Malaya, presenting
Certificate of Gradu-
ation to 'Che Ramla-
binti Abang Matara
of Sibul at Ba
Lintang Teache
Training Centre



ficated teachers who have been trained at Batu Lintang is now 181.

There was a noticeable improvement compared with previous years in the academic standard of the new students admitted to the Grade IIIA Course at the beginning of the year.

The course for the Grade IIA Certificate was initiated at the beginning of 1952 with the admission of 10 students possessing a minimum qualification of Form III or a Chinese Junior Middle Certificate. These students will eventually serve as teachers in the Mission central schools or as teachers of English in Chinese schools. Towards the end of the year the number of applicants for this course gave promise both of larger intake and of a better academic standard on entry.

Reports on the work of trained teachers from the Centre continue to be encouraging. Group Supervisors have undoubtedly helped many of these young teachers in their varied problems and difficulties. The Batu Lintang staff maintained contact with former students through a periodical "News Letter" and some members of the staff were able during the vacation to visit schools in every Division.

The Batu Lintang Training Centre was honoured by the visit in October of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent who toured the buildings and grounds and spoke to representative members of staff and students. At the end of the year the Rt. Hon. Malcolm MacDonald, as Chancellor of the University of Malaya, presented certificates to the graduating students.

Higher Education

Six scholarships for Higher Education overseas were awarded during the year by the Government of Sarawak. Five of these scholarships were awarded for degree courses in Medicine and in Arts, and for a course in Pharmacy, at the University of Malaya. One for the Medical degree courses was awarded to woman. One scholarship was awarded for a Civil Engineering course in the United Kingdom. The British Government awarded two scholarships under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for courses in the United Kingdom, one in Co-operation and one in Civil Engineering. The Australian Government awarded two scholarships in Civil Engineering to Sarawak students and one Fellowship, within the UNESCO Scheme, to enable a young Government officer to study Local Administration in Australia. Another officer was awarded by the New Zealand Government a Fellowship, within the UNESCO Scheme, to study Land Administration in New Zealand.

Under the Colombo Plan, the New Zealand Government also made an award to a Sarawak student to enable him to study Civil Engineering. Two teachers from schools in Kuching were awarded Fellowships at the end of the previous year and spent six months during 1952 studying teaching methods in New Zealand.

The World Health Organisation awarded two fellowships to Sarawak candidates in 1952; one of these was for a course in Medical Laboratory Technique and the other for a course in Meat and Food Inspection, both in Great Britain.

A few private students made their own arrangements through the Department for courses of higher education overseas, mainly in the United Kingdom and Australia. One private candidate was admitted as a student at Lincolns Inn.

Community Development and Adult Education

The Department's principal venture in community development is the Rural Improvement School at Kanowit. This school provides a course which lasts two years and is designed to help selected couples and young men to gain a sound practical knowledge of improved methods of agriculture, animal husbandry, elementary hygiene and infant welfare, to become literate in their own vernacular and to learn simple market arithmetic.

During the course students receive free tuition, board and transport and a monthly cash allowance for essential requirements. The main building consists of a community centre of an improved "long-house" design which provides class-room, dining and recreational facilities and a dispensary.

Students and their families live during the course both in the long-house and in individual farm houses of different designs, which have been built on small holdings within the school estate. This arrangement provides pupils with practical experience of both types of accommodation by which they can begin to form opinions as to which would be the more suitable for adoption in their areas.

The school grounds occupy some 400 acres, one third of which is reserved as forest. The remainder, which is sufficiently diversified to provide examples of typical farm land throughout the country, is used to demonstrate improved techniques of tropical agricultural operations.

The scheme was financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds from its inception in May, 1948 to April, 1952, since when it became a charge upon the country's revenue. Efforts are made to ensure that the pupils discharged in each April have the fullest opportunity of putting into practice what they had learned during their training.

Twelve couples completed the two-year course in May, 1952. All but two were able to begin putting their training into effect on home farms in the ensuing padi season, six as leading farmers in three group-padi-growing schemes in the Second Division. By May 1952, 38 couples had successfully completed the course.

A step towards training younger people, before marriage, was taken

with the admission of 20 young men to the 1952-54 course. They have done well. Building plans were also under consideration to cater for the pre-marriage training of young women from rural areas in 1954. Married couples will continue to take the course as hitherto.

Staff was strengthened by the arrival of a widely-experienced nurse and health visitor to take charge of the female and health departments of the school and to train Asian understudies. Suitable Asian female assistants however have not yet been secured. Skilled male staff is also deficient. This fact, with the increasing activities of the school, seriously limited the Principal's follow-up travel. Reports of ex-pupils however continue generally to be encouraging.

Materially, the school was improved by the provision of some small-farm mechanical equipment, a machinery barn and four junior-staff cottages. Pupils cleared new farm land and further improved the drainage and irrigation system.

The School Co-operative Store has grown to include all Kanowit Government staff.

A Community Development scheme was planned for the Muara Tuang area of the First Division. This Scheme is to be a combined effort by the Departments of Agriculture, Co-operative Development, Education and Medical Services. The Education Department is to be chiefly concerned with adult literacy. The Divisional Education Officer and a Group Supervisor of Schools surveyed the area with a view to organising adult classes which were due to open in 1953.

Youth Work and Out-of-School Activities

Several associations, clubs and societies (some conducted by old students of schools), whose objects are to foster social, educational and cultural activities were active during the year. A few provided facilities for indoor and outdoor games.

A Youth Council was formed during the year to advise the Government on the needs of the youth of the country.

The British Council

The British Council continued to do valuable cultural work in connection with schools. The Council's libraries at Kuching and Sibü provided wider reading for students, particularly from secondary schools, and teachers. Book boxes, mainly containing simplified English readers, were circulated to rural schools of all types and proved popular. One hundred schools with trained teachers now receive presentations from the British Council of an illustrated monthly teaching periodical. A well organised programme of film shows was arranged for schools in Kuching throughout the year. The Council hopes in future to supply films to other urban areas when projectors become available.

Scouting

Scouting in Sarawak is still in its infancy but it is growing in popularity. Many new troops were formed during the year but all have not yet been registered. The number of Scouts in the country is now thought to be about 800 of whom half are in Kuching. The great need at present is for leaders in the movement. There is little doubt that with leadership Scouting would spread rapidly.

During the year the new Sarawak Boy Scout constitution was approved, giving the official status of 'Branch' to the local Scout organisation. The Assistant Commissioner, who had done much to keep Scouting alive in Sarawak in difficult circumstances, received the award of the 'Silver Acorn'. Scout activities during the year included a combined Scout Rally in Kuching, a Dollar-a-Job week which successfully raised funds for the movement, a number of successful Camp-fires and a training camp organised during the August holidays at Santubong which was attended by about 40 scouts. A promising development during the year was the formation of cub-packs in several areas, under an experienced leader; keen interest was shown in these packs.

Girl Guides

The Girl Guide companies in Kuching continued to grow in numbers and at the end of the year there were 120 Guides. The lack of Guiders however handicapped progress very much. A very successful Sale of Work was held in March. During December a party of Guides doing First Class Tests spent a wet week-end under canvas—the first camp of its kind to be held here. The camp was a great success and the Guides all gained their Pass. The Guide Company in Miri continued to function but owing to lack of Guiders progress was slow.

Boys' Club

The Boys' Club and Hostel in Padungan continued to fill a useful function in providing recreation for boys in Padungan and giving accommodation to homeless boys. Plans for the innovation of a Boys' Club and Youth Centre in Sibü were nearing completion by the end of the year. Progress with the formation of a Youth Centre in Kuching was rather disappointing.

Evening Classes

Evening carpentry classes for boys and young men were organised in Kuching by the British Council in co-operation with voluntary organisations and with financial assistance from Government.

MEDICAL

General

The medical services of Sarawak, in comparison with those of neighbouring territories, are characterised by their widespread geographical extent with very poor communications between the various parts.

There are Government hospitals in charge of doctors at Kuching, Simanggang and Sibü, and the oil company (Sarawak Oilfields Ltd.) has a large and well staffed hospital at Miri. In other places there are small static dispensaries, twenty four in number, in charge of Hospital Assistants (locally trained male nurses), and there are also sixteen travelling dispensary boats operating on the rivers.

Other medical establishments worthy of note are a leprosarium for about four hundred and fifty patients just outside Kuching, a large out-patient department in the town and a maternity and child welfare centre close by.

Mental patients are cared for in special wards adjoining the General Hospital, Kuching.

The General Hospital, Kuching is a modern hospital of about three hundred beds about two miles out of the town. It deals with the usual run of medical, surgical and maternity cases without the benefit of specialist advice or skill.

Mental wards for about one hundred patients adjoin this Hospital, and are attended by the same medical staff. Their state is exceedingly unsatisfactory. They are little more than a place of detention for lunatics. Plans were well advanced at the close of the year for the construction of a modern mental hospital of about two hundred and fifty beds to serve the three territories of British North Borneo, Brunei and Sarawak. This building will be pleasantly placed near the sea in Brunei, and administered from Sarawak. It is hoped that expert and other staff will become available to run this new hospital. So far none has been engaged.

There is a dental department at the Kuching Hospital in charge of a qualified dental officer who was away on leave for most of the year. His duties were performed in his absence by a competent assistant. There is a suite of air-conditioned operating theatres, and the usual X-ray and other ancillary departments, so that below the specialist level all forms of medical and surgical diagnosis and treatment can be carried out.

There is good general pathological and chemical laboratory in charge of a skilled technician, locally trained, who went to England for further training during the year. His assistant carried on with success during his absence and effectively coped with a wide variety of pathological, bacteriological, analytical and medico-

legal work. There are also adequate facilities for the training of nursing staff, comprising lecture rooms and practical workrooms well equipped with modern aids. The Sister Tutor left on completion of her contract in May, and her successor is expected early in 1953. Tuition did not cease in the interval.

A new ward was opened at Simanggang in June, bringing the total number of beds up to about forty. This is not an economic unit for one doctor, and proposals were studied during the year for expansion to over a hundred. There is a limit to the treatment one doctor can provide single handed, but a very great deal can be achieved by the right man.

There is a general hospital, the Lau King Howe Hospital of about a hundred and thirty beds, at Sibü. It is staffed by two doctors and a Sister, as well as locally trained personnel. It performs all the functions of a country general hospital including major operative surgery and maternity work.

The medical officer in charge went on home leave towards the end of the year and a replacement was not available, but the good work continued through the tireless loyalty of the remaining doctor and his staff.

A new Out Patient Department was opened in October by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

This department is exceedingly busy, and deals with as many as eight thousand patients in a month. They can not all be seen by one doctor with many other things to do, but a very senior and competent locally trained assisstant efficiently managed this work under supervision.

Sibü is a growing town, with an enormous developing hinterland drained by the Rejang River, and we must anticipate very great expansion of our hospital facilities there in the future. Building plans for development to about three hundred and fifty beds in gradual stages in future years are in course of preparation at the time of writing.

The oil company at Miri has a magnificent hospital wonderfully staffed and equipped, and very expensive to maintain. This puts the Government in a quandary. We cannot very well offer patently inferior hospital facilities alongside the perfect ones the Company offers, nor can we compete with them in quality. Government patients during 1952 were sent to the Company hospital, and paid for on a *per diem* basis at Company rates. A Government hospital building was completed about two miles away, but it proved impossible to staff it and negotiations were started with the company for them to run it with their existing medical staff.

The treatment of outpatients in Kuching takes place in two

separate buildings, one housing the Women and Children's Centre and the other general outpatients and special tuberculosis cases. Both buildings are unsatisfactory but, with the completion of a health centre and tuberculosis clinic towards the end of 1953, they will no longer be required.

The Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Sarawak (A. T. A. S.) has raised over \$150,000 by voluntary subscriptions, and has built a fine new chest clinic in Kuching to be called the Wee Kheng Chiang Clinic after the largest single contributor, who gave \$50,000 of the total amount raised. This building is expected to be ready for occupation at the end of the first quarter of 1953 and will be managed by the Medical Department.

Plans were completed for the erection at Government expense of a new Health Centre in Kuching which will be built in 1953 at a cost of over a quarter of a million dollars. It will be a two-storey building housing general out-patient departments on the ground floor, and Maternity and Child Welfare and Dental Departments on the first floor.

There are twenty-four small static dispensaries scattered over the countryside. A typical one is a small wooden house of about four rooms comprising a dispensary, an office and four to twelve beds for patients under treatment. It is in charge of a locally trained hospital assistant who does magnificent work considering his very limited educational background.

There are sixteen travelling dispensaries functioning on the rivers of Sarawak in out-board motor boats. No better picture of their work can be given than the following verbatim report from one of them:

"I have the honour to send you this travelling duty report of mine for your information, please.

"I left for Oya on the 17.10.52. Travelled in the Chinese launch. After approx. two hours' time, Oya station was reached. No doubt, that I interviewed the Officer-in-charge and put my valueless signature in the visiting book. Then I started my duty. Several kampongs were visited and several cases treated. An aged-blind-man was visited in his house in Kampong Oya. He was, of course, recommended free from exemption tax. I could do nothing more than written down his name, address and etc. for future transmission, if required. A case of chronic arthritis was seen in patient's own house. He denied the history of V.D. and affirmed me that he had never run wild even though during his young days. Yes, so far so good, he was treated with sulpha-drugs and mist.pot.cit. alk. He was requestd to keep me informed about his condition after the treatment. One of the daughters of the O.I.C.

also visited. She is having eczema. All the same, she was treated with sulpha-drugs.

"The lives of the kampong inhabitants are as usual. Some fishing and others farming. A poor kampong as far as wealth is concerned.

"Kampong Penat was visited on 19.10.52. The Chinese bus is the only availability of transport. Half an hour to reach from Oya station. A blind man was also seen. He is so anxious to have his eyesights restored. I will send him to the D.M.O. for an operation. The Tua Kampong was interviewed. His information regarding the health of the natives was satisfactory. Several cases were treated and a few houses were called. A native woman who was treated by me during my previous visit. She had V.D. The man ran away from her during her illness and returned back to her after she was cured. What a foolish woman to accept him again and what a cruel man to forsake his wife during her illness!. A boat hawker is seen hawking here. He is single. In no time he will possess a native wife either permanent or temporary. Nothing very special came through. So I returned back to Oya on the next day. Yes, no other chance of transport except the chinese bus. Immediately after my arrival at Oya station. I intended to proceed right away to Kampong Mudan, but in vain, due to the incorrect time of the tide. Thus delayed me for another day in Oya which, I simply don't like if possible. On the 21.10.52. I headed for Kampong Mudan. Nature of transport, 'bicycle.' It took approx. one hour to reach from the bazaar of Oya station. This is the first occasion of my visit. And the first house in which I called was Haji Malim's, situated at the kuala. There are approx. 23.in.no. of houses and composed of more or less 100.person of both sexes, young and old. Several houses were called and 22.cases were treated. Nothing serious. They are the victims of malaria with anaemia. Worms among the children and a few skin diseases. The 'wakel T.K.' was visited. An old man suffering from hemiplegia. Nothing much could do for him, with the exception of sulpha-drugs treatment.

"I spent half a day in the kampong. And I returned back to Oya then after a rest of half an hour returned back to Dalat. Dalat was reached at 4.30 p.m."

Public Health

Little of real value is known of the public health in the hinterland. Malaria is endemic. Helminthic infections are universal. Yaws abounds in some places and is a notable absentee in others. Fertility is low and infant mortality high. Much remains to be

done and the whole area is a challenge to the ingenuity and energy of the medical administrator.

In the main centres of population, however, the picture is quite different. Malaria is completely controlled, yaws virtually non-existent and the population is increasing rapidly by natural reproduction. Water supplies are poor but rapidly improving, and generally the outlook for the near future is very bright.

It is certain that in the years ahead we are due for some notable surprises in the realm of rural public health. Towards the end of the year, for instance, we found reason to suppose that certain children of school age are nearly all infected with trachoma, a very startling discovery.

Towards the end of 1952 work was started in an attempt to raise the standard of rural midwifery. Three married women, all fully qualified nurses trained in the United Kingdom, were engaged, one at Kuching, one at Simanggang, and one at Sibul, with the object of training midwives nominated and subsidised by local authorities. These girls after training and certification will return to their villages and carry on their profession under supervision. UNICEF has promised assistance with this project which may well develop into a major factor influencing the public health of Sarawak. There is at present no Sarawak legislation controlling the practice of midwifery, but when sufficient of these rural midwives are available, it is proposed to limit by law the practice of midwifery for profit to persons licensed to practice. Licences will probably be of three grades: (A) to trained nurses also qualified as midwives, (B) to girls of limited education who have undergone our course of instruction and obtained the certificate, and (C) to existing established midwives. Class (C) will, of course, die out in time.

World Health Organisation Assistance

WHO assistance to Sarawak during 1952 comprised two major undertakings, and two others as described hereunder. Much of the finance of these projects and their equipment was provided by UNICEF, and the Sarawak Government gave matching contributions of approximately equal value by way of local staff, housing, transport, clerical assistance, materials, etc.

A WHO team operated throughout the country testing for tuberculosis and inoculating with B.C.G. vaccine. The team consisted of one specialist doctor and a trained nurse, and they trained five local teams to continue the work after their departure. The whole country is expected to be covered by April, 1953.

A specialist malariologist made a rapid but thorough malarial survey of Sarawak assisted by local technicians, and selected an extensive site up the Baram River for a pilot control project by

means of residual spray. If this experiment proves successful, and there is good reason to hope it will, there seems to be no reason why malaria should not be amenable to total control over the whole country, and this offers endless possibilities of such greatly improved health as to change the whole face of Sarawak. Experience elsewhere shows that to control malaria is greatly to decrease the incidence of most other diseases as well, is to increase the birth rate, decrease the death rate, raise the production of food crops and, in short, do all the good things Sarawak needs so much. We have no overpopulation problem here, the Agricultural Department estimates that even with the present primitive agricultural methods, Sarawak can support about four times its present population, and in considering this malaria work, rosy dreams for the future may be forgiven.

A specialist ophthalmologist visited Sarawak in December and travelled widely to accessible spots. He made the trachoma discovery mentioned above, and restored sight by means of surgical interference to thirty-nine blind persons. He left a valuable legacy of example and instruction to Government medical staff, and offered advice as to the future expansion of ophthalmological work in this country. This was a remarkable visit crowded into only three weeks.

A Health Educator arrived in December and had not been here long enough at the year end for any useful estimate to be made of his work.

The Future

Medical Department progress in Sarawak is gravely hindered by the impossibility of recruiting sufficient educated boys and girls to train as medical auxiliaries. The schools are simply not turning out enough potential candidates for appointment as nurses, dressers, and the like. It may be that we shall have to depend on quite a different type of worker in this Department. There seems to be no reason why uneducated youngsters could not be trained, as local midwives are now, to be health and medical agents of Government. The existence of such a body of young workers would solve another big problem too, to wit, the provision of some medical and health services, however elementary, to the interior where strangers in custom and tongue are not welcome, and where in any case they would find it very difficult to live. Much remains to be done, and development will necessarily be slow, but we can be quite sure that great and unforeseen development there will be, and that the health future of Sarawak is going to be full of surprises.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH

Sibu Benevolent Society

Of all its activities, the most important are the care of the aged and destitute and the maintenance of a nursing home for chronic tuberculosis cases and other ailments which prevent the sufferer from earning his or her own living.

McCarthy Lodge, a few miles up river from Sibu, caters for the former but the Nursing Home in Sibu itself deals with the latter. The new buildings, erected by donations from the public and a large grant from the Government, stand on land purchased by the Society and transferred to the Government. The buildings are a great improvement and enable a considerable number of patients to be admitted.

The Society is supported mainly by public subscriptions but also receives a monthly contribution from the Government.

The British Red Cross Society

The Sarawak Branch continued its activities during the year. Chief among these were regular weekly welfare work in all the wards of the General Hospital in Kuching; the provision of courses of lectures throughout the year, and the maintenance of the Blood Transfusion Service. There are still not enough blood donors, but all calls for blood were answered.

Detachments were on duty at many public functions, and the Work Party met weekly to make clothes and toys for the poor and the sick.

The Associate Group at the Leper Settlement provided the recreational facilities there and, in common with the Chinese Associations and the Kuching Rotary Club, did much for the welfare of the patients.

A new ambulance was received in July 1952, to replace the ambulance lost in an accident in 1951.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Social Welfare Advisory Committee

This Committee, formed in 1948 of voluntary members, continued to hold regular meetings during the year and advised the Government on social welfare policy and practice. It has also assumed the functions of a working committee for the Sarawak Social Welfare Council established in 1949. In the latter capacity it has dealt with matters requiring previous discussion before their submission to, and consideration by, the Council. It has also been

responsible for deciding the Agenda for the Council and for carrying into effect some of the Council's decisions.

Ten formal and informal meetings of the Committee were held during the year. Among the main subjects brought up for discussion on which action had been taken were a policy governing welfare lotteries, a draft Bill to incorporate the Social Welfare Council, the establishment of the Sibu Boys' Club, benevolent societies, relief, membership of the Council, and the appointment of welfare officers.

There are now six members on the Committee, including a representative for the Third Division. The members of the Committee are *ipso facto* members of the Social Welfare Council.

Social Welfare Council

During the year three full Council meetings were held. The subjects discussed at these meetings were representative of the welfare needs of different parts of the country; although Kuching, with its more highly-developed social welfare schemes and central organisations, demanded comparatively more attention from the Council.

In 1952, the Government's subvention to the Council, from sums accruing to revenue from the lottery tax, amounted to \$60,000. This sum was disbursed to various welfare organisations and projects, as follows :-

Subsidy to Anti-tuberculosis			
Association of Sarawak	...		\$10,000
Grant to Sibu Boys' Club	...		15,000
Grant to Kuching Boys' Club and Hostel	...	...	6,000
Benevolent Societies *	...	...	10,000
Charitable Assistance to Needy Cases			10,000
Reserve Fund	...	...	9,000
			<hr/>
			\$60,000
			<hr/>

*The only payment has been \$3,000 to the Sibu Benevolent Society. The balance of the allocation is held in reserve to meet the requirements of societies should they encounter difficulties and appeal to the Council.

In addition to acting as a dispenser of Government charity the Council, through its Appeals Committee, took an active part in raising funds by means of country-wide social welfare lotteries.

In spite of the lack of trained staff to do the work, the Finance Committee of the Council was called upon to pay out various sums of money given in relieving cases of distress or real need, for which

no normal provisions had been made either by a Government Department or by a voluntary welfare agency.

The strengthening of the membership of the Council in 1952 made it possible for a Youth Council to be formed with members of the Council as its nucleus. The Social Welfare Council at present has a membership of thirty which comprises members of the Advisory Committee on Social Welfare, representatives of Churches, community organisations, as well as individuals interested in welfare and youth work.

The Council and all its sub-committees, as well as associated bodies doing welfare work in the Colony, need to have their functions and constitutions more closely defined, and for this purpose consideration was given to a draft Bill to incorporate the Council. It has not yet been decided, however, whether or not this is the best solution of the problem. It may be that a carefully drafted new Constitution for the Council is all that is necessary at this stage.

To carry out its functions properly the Council should have executive staff, and recommendations were made for the appointment of a Youth Officer and Relief Almoner.

Chapter X

CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

1952 was the fourth year of the Department's Five-year Plan of Co-operative Development. It is a record of further progress marred by failures and disappointments. Many new Societies came into being, the majority of the old progressed in varying degree, some failed to show any progress, and a few gave up hope, succumbed and were interred.

Thirty-eight new Societies were added to the Register, but eight were removed, leaving 109 at the end of the year. A further two had received notices of cancellation. Numerically the increase in 1952 was high, but it cannot be said that efficiency, either in the registered Societies remaining or in the Department itself, increased in like proportion. Certainly there has been some improvement but it has not been sufficient for the Department to face the future with equanimity.

Much more was achieved in 1952 towards fulfilment of the Five-year Plan than in 1951, but the leeway was not completely made up and at the end of the year several gaps still existed. For example, although there had been some territorial expansion and two new Districts (Simanggang and Sibu) were added to the area in which the Department promotes Co-operation, it was not found possible to attempt anything in the Fourth and Fifth Divisions, although it is known that there is considerable scope in those areas. The staff position, both on the supervisory and audit side, remained serious, although an improvement in the number of untrained officers took place towards the end of the year.

There were several outstanding developments: the Saribas Co-operative Hostel was built in Kuching and opened; the Henghua (Chinese) Fishermen's Co-operative Village began to take shape with the erection of 22 dwellings; two Foochow (Chinese) Co-operative village shops opened business in the Sibu District after a long period of preparation; the urban Malays of Kuching began to turn to Co-operation; and the Department's monthly magazine in English, Malay and Sea Dayak made its first appearance in April.

The Foochow movement towards Co-operation is particularly important. Practical acceptance of Co-operative principles by a small section of this large group of hardworking Chinese peasants may lead to much greater developments among other sections in the

near future. Already two more Foochow Societies are in process of formation.

The swing of the urban Malays of Kuching towards Co-operation is also very important, but as yet it is not a mass movement (although it would appear so in statistics). The fact is that leaders of the Malay community in Kuching are convinced that only through Co-operation can they lead their people towards control of their own economy. The rank-and-file, however, are still apathetic, preferring to leave all the work to the leaders.

Early in the year the graph of the market value of all agricultural produce took a sharp downward curve while the prices of consumer goods, particularly rice, continued to rise. Then it became clear that the padi harvest would be a partial failure at about the time reports circulated of the precarious supply position with regard to imported rice. Bewilderment followed, and some groups turned to Co-operation as a means of conserving their resources. On the other hand, some Rural Credit Societies, the members of which are largely dependent on rubber or sago for cash, found it difficult to collect recurring deposits, and short-term loans being in great demand may have been granted too freely in some cases. In many of the Sea Dayak Co-operative Stores Societies the important principle of cash trading was relaxed against all advice and in some cases brought disastrous results. The shortage of rice and its very high price has, however, led to an increased demand for Padi Savings Societies. Five more of these were registered, and more are expected in 1953.

Urban Co-operatives

The three Thrift and Loan Societies for salaried workers continued to grow in financial strength but they do not make as much contribution to Co-operative knowledge as might be desired.

There are four urban Co-operative Stores, three in Kuching and one in Sibü. The largest is the Kuching Co-operative Stores Society, Limited which caters for salaried workers other than the police. It had a fairly successful year and is now firmly established. The Constabulary have two such Societies, one in Kuching and one in Sibü; each showed a substantial trading surplus. The last of the four is a small Malay Co-operative in Kuching which has passed through a difficult period but has adhered to the principle of cash sales and is becoming a good example.

A Malay Meat Retailing Co-operative was established during the year in Kuching. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining live stock at reasonable prices for slaughtering. The Society suffered a loss, internal dissention endangered operations and it is likely that voluntary liquidation will occur in 1953.

The Henghua (Chinese) Village Co-operative for fishermen continues to progress slowly; at the end of the year 22 dwellings were

under construction in the village, and plans were well advanced for development of the fishing-boat beaching and net drying area.

Rural Co-operatives

Rural Credit Societies decreased by one, six being liquidated and five new ones being registered. The liquidation of six was necessary in order to eliminate bad examples, and generally speaking this branch of the movement is stronger than ever. One of the greatest obstacles to increased padi production in Sarawak has always been the lack of cheap short-term credit for the padi farmer; the Rural Credit Society helps to remove this obstacle, teaching thrift on the one hand and supplying credit to reliable farming members on the other.

Savings Societies increased by 7 to 26. These Societies accept deposits annually from their members, do not generally grant loans, and are becoming comparatively rich. Seventeen of them are members of the Saribas Co-operative Hostel Society, Limited which now has its own hostel in Kuching.

Padi Savings Societies, of limited and unlimited liability, increased by 4 to 9, one having been liquidated. Their value was well demonstrated during the last few months of the year when local rice was very short in many places because of partial failure of the 1952 crop; these Societies were able to provide their members with all the padi required for their needs.

Padi Milling Societies were in much greater demand than previously and registration increased from 6 to 17. Not all of them are efficiently run, and 3 made a loss, but in spite of the limited supply of padi available much progress was made.

Six new Rural Co-operative Stores were registered and one was liquidated, leaving 17 on the register. Two new Foochow Societies were successful, and 10 others also made a net trading surplus, but the slump in rubber and shortage of rice resulted in credit being given in most of the Sea Dayak Societies, and five suffered a loss. This undesirable development is serious and liquidation of several of these Sea Dayak Societies appears inevitable.

General Observations

The slump in rubber and sago reduced the inflation of 1951, but because of the increased prices of essential imported goods a rising cost-of-living remains. The slump has had a marked effect upon Rural Co-operatives, but it is unlikely that any lasting damage has been done to the movement as a whole. Certain advantages are discernible; it has enabled the Registrar to eliminate some of the bad societies and thus demonstrate the importance of adherence to Co-operative principles; it has demonstrated the need for thrift and the advantages of facilities for easy short-term credit through Co-





operatives; and it has shown that co-operative trading must be managed efficiently to be successful.

The Department's monthly magazine (in English, Malay and Sea Dayak) is becoming a useful medium for the spreading of Co-operative knowledge. The first issue appeared in April. The paper is a Departmental one, but agricultural and other matters of interest to Co-operators are included as space permits.

Although statistics for the year 1952 are not yet available, it is certain that the total assets of Societies have increased greatly. Membership is also on the increase, and the demand for registration is stronger than ever before. The greatest obstacle to development is shortage of well-trained departmental supervisory and audit staff and it will remain so for several years to come.

Chapter XI

LEGISLATION

On the 8th August, 1952, a state of emergency was declared to exist in the First Division of Sarawak and a number of Emergency Regulations were made under the Emergency Regulations Ordinance, 1948. The state of emergency was still in force at the end of the year.

In other respects the period under review might from the legislative angle be described as a period in which the existing law was clarified and improved rather than a period notable for any radical legislative innovations.

During the year thirty-four Ordinances were enacted, more than half of which were amending Ordinances. Among these were—

AMENDING ORDINANCES

Land (Amendment) Ordinance: to clarify the functions of occupation tickets; to remove doubts in respect of consolidation of notifications; to provide a flexible method of varying the areas reserved to Sarawak Oilfields Limited, and to enable grazing permits over Crown Land or land reserved for a public purpose to be issued.

Land (Classification) (Amendment) Ordinance: to add a further definition to the four definitions of Mixed Zone Land already contained in the Principal Ordinance; to remedy an anachronism; to clarify the interests of natives occupying Native Customary Land.

Penal Code (Amendment) Ordinance: to make infanticide an exception to the definition of murder and to add the new offence of committing or abetting gross indecency between male persons to the Penal Code.

Youthful Offenders' Reception (Amendment) Ordinance: to make provision for the reception of youthful offenders from the State of Brunei.

Criminal Procedure Code (Amendment) Ordinance: to raise the age when offenders may be sentenced to death from 16 to 18 and to make the date of the commission of the offence the material date.

Constabulary (Amendment) Ordinance: to give the Commissioner of the Sarawak Constabulary power to reduce a non-commissioned officer in rank, and to delegate powers to the Deputy Commissioner.

Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance: to increase the rate of tax upon the chargeable income of Companies from 20 per cent to 30 per cent.

Post Office Savings Bank Ordinance: to enact in a separate Ordinance and in a more comprehensive form the law relating to the Post Office Savings Bank previously contained in the Post Office Ordinance. This Ordinance has not yet been brought into force because a number of consequential amendments to the Post Office Regulations will be necessary.

ORDINANCES WHICH REPEAL AND REPLACE EXISTING ORDINANCES

Kuching Municipal Ordinance: this Ordinance came into force on January 1st, 1953. It converted the Kuching Municipality formerly a Government Department into an autonomous body with wider legislative powers and greater control over finance. It marks important progress in the development of local government.

Immigration and Passports Ordinances: these Ordinances repeal and replace the existing Ordinances with more comprehensive enactments similar to the Passports and Immigration legislation of British territories in South East Asia: commencement has been delayed while regulations are being prepared in consultation with such other territories.

Maintenance of Public Order (Special Powers of Detention) Ordinance: this Ordinance replaces the Detention of Persons (Special Powers) Ordinance, 1950, which ceased to operate when no further resolution to extend the operation of the Ordinance was made at the November 1950 Council Negri meeting. It is designed to confer power to detain persons whenever the maintenance of public order so requires provided that there are reasonable grounds for believing that such persons are planning to commit crimes of violence in order to further political objects.

Arbitration Ordinance: to provide in the Laws of Sarawak for the conduct and control of arbitrations. The English Law was applied here under the Application of Laws Ordinance, 1949, prior to the enactment of the Ordinance.

Town and Country Planning Ordinance: made provision for the orderly and progressive control of the planning and development of towns, land and other areas.

Dealings in Land (Validation) Ordinance: this Ordinance is complementary to the Land (Classification) (Amendment) Ordinance, in that it seeks to overcome the difficulties which have arisen through certain ambiguities experienced in the operation of the Land (Classification) Ordinance, 1948, and to validate certain dealings in land which have taken place since 1948.

Food Control Ordinance: designed to ensure a proper method of control and rationing of food by legislation. The distribution of ration cards in the First Division has now almost been completed and it is intended to bring this legislation into force on the completion of such distribution.

Electricity Ordinance: this is a comprehensive measure to regulate the conditions under which electric light and power may be supplied and installed. Its commencement has been postponed pending negotiations with present licensees.

Antiquities Ordinance: this is a comprehensive measure to control archaeological activities and to preserve for posterity in Sarawak excavations and objects of especial interest to the country.

Chapter XII

LAW AND ORDER

JUSTICE

Apart from Imperial legislation, whether by Order in Council or otherwise, the law of Sarawak is to be found mainly in local Ordinances and native customary law. Chinese customary law, chiefly in matrimonial matters and in relation to inheritance is recognised to a limited extent, but only in so far as such recognition is expressly or by implication to be found in a local Ordinance.

Where Sarawak law is silent, the Courts apply the common law of England and the doctrines of equity, together with English statutes to the extent permitted by the Application of Law Ordinance, 1949. But English law is applied so far only as the circumstances of the country and of its inhabitants permit and subject to such qualifications as local circumstances and native customs render necessary.

On the 1st December, 1951, the Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei (Courts) Order in Council, 1951, came into force. This Order in Council established one Supreme Court of Judicature, consisting of a High Court and a Court of Appeal, for the Colonies of Sarawak and North Borneo and the State of Brunei. The Court of Appeal has its headquarters in Kuching, but sits as occasion may require at other places in the Territories.

The newly-established High Court supersedes the former Circuit Courts, and the appellate jurisdiction, formerly exercised by the Chief Justice of Sarawak, now vests in the newly established Court of Appeal. The Courts presided over by Magistrates are the District Court (civil and criminal); the Court of Small Causes (civil); the Police Court (criminal) and the Petty Court (civil and criminal).

On the 1st May, 1952, a new Courts Ordinance came into force. In exercise of their civil jurisdiction Courts of Magistrates have jurisdiction in every civil matter whereof the value in dispute does not exceed in the case of the Magistrates of the First Class five hundred dollars; in the case of the Magistrates of the Second Class two hundred and fifty dollars; and in the case of the Magistrates of the Third Class fifty dollars. Courts of Magistrates have no jurisdiction in proceedings in connection with application for partition of immovable property; the specific performance or rescission of contracts; the cancellation or rectification of instruments; the enforcement of trusts; and in connection with application for declaratory decrees. In the exercise of their criminal jurisdiction the powers of the Courts of

Magistrates are as provided in the Criminal Procedure Code.

Apart from the Courts mentioned in the preceding paragraph there are the Native Courts constituted under the Native Courts Ordinance. These are the District Native Court, the Native Officer's or Chief's Court and the Headman's Court. An appeal lies from the District Native Court to the Court of a Magistrate of the First Class sitting with a Native Officer or Chief and two assessors. There is a further appeal to the Supreme Court, in which the Judge sits with the Secretary for Native Affairs (or with a First Class Magistrate other than the Magistrate from whose Court the appeal lay) and with two assessors who must be Native Officers or Chiefs. As a general rule the Native Courts are competent to try only cases in which all the parties are natives, including cases arising from the breach of native law and custom, civil cases where the value of the subject matter does not exceed fifty dollars, and claims to untitled land.

Consequent upon the death of Sir Ivor Brace the office of Chief Justice became vacant and had not been filled by the end of the year.

Probate and Administration

In pursuance of the powers vested in him by section 3 of the Administration of Estates Ordinance (Cap 80), the Registrar assumed official administration of fifteen deceased persons' estates. Seven of these estates were duly administered and the assets and property, after payment of the deceaseds' just debts and liabilities, were distributed and transmitted to the heirs and beneficiaries according to the shares they are entitled to by law and custom.

The highest estate duty paid by deceased persons' estates during the year was 15%.

Eight grants of Probate to the estates of persons died testate, and 54 grants of Letters of Administration to estates of persons died intestate have been granted.

Two resealing of foreign grants of Probate have been effected in respect of the assets and property of deceased persons in Sarawak.

Lunatic Persons' Estates

The Official Assignee administered five lunatic persons' estates one of which was a Malay and the others Chinese.

Bankruptcy

Only one bankruptcy petition was filed during the year. Bankruptcy proceedings were later annulled upon the debtor settling the claims of the petitioning creditor.

Deeds and Bills of Sale

About four hundred documents were registered under the provisions of the Registration of Deeds Ordinance. The majority of these were powers of attorney and agreements.

About fifty bills of sale were registered under the provisions of the Bills of Sales Ordinance.

Business Names and Limited Companies

The registration of new partnership businesses has increased three-fold as compared with those in 1951. The majority of these are dealers in general merchandise and groceries.

Five locally incorporated and eight foreign limited liability companies were registered under the Companies Ordinance. Most of these are insurance companies and the others comprise dealers in general merchandise and one company maintaining air communications.

Patents and Trade Marks

Three grants of "Exclusive Privileges" were issued during the year. All of these are United Kingdom patents.

Registration of trade marks has increased considerably. During the year 235 marks were registered and four renewals of registration effected.

Trust

In the absence of a Public Trustee in the country the Registrar was appointed by the Court to administer a trust created by the will of a deceased person.

Court Fees, Fines, Forfeitures and Deposits

The volume of transactions under this heading has always been on the uptrend. The revenue collected during the year amounted to \$109,603.50.

Money Lenders

Two new Money Lenders Licences were issued, and five renewals of licences effected.

CONSTABULARY

The Gazetted Officer strength was increased by four during the year.

The Force was 54 under strength at the end of the year. An increase of 12 Officers, 12 Inspectors and 401 N.C.O's and men has been approved. The approved strength for 1952 was 1,199 and the actual strength 1,145. In 1930 1,674 men were available to maintain law and order. They came from the following units:—

Sarawak Rangers	780
Police Rank and File	894
Total	<hr/> 1,674 <hr/>

On 1st January 1952 there were 127 recruits in training. 282 applications for enlistment were received and of these 111 were rejected,—sixty on medical grounds. At the end of the year there were 178 recruits at the Police Training School. There was a considerable increase in the number of applications and enlistments over last year. Last year's figures were also a record so the popularity of the Force as a career is steadily growing.

The increase in the number of recruits and the steady drop in the number of resignations during the year is probably due to the more favourable salary scales introduced in 1951. It is likely that the proposed payment of educational and specialist allowances will in 1953 further increase enthusiasm for the Force as a career.

Steps have been taken to obtain Gazetted Officers for appointment as Quartermaster, Signals Officer and O.C. Field Force. The Special Branch is to be expanded; an Assistant Commissioner is to become its first Director. Plans are in hand for the enlargement and training of the Traffic and Transport Branch. The Marine and Communications Branches have been expanded.

Casualties

A Lance Corporal was killed and two of his men wounded whilst endeavouring to stop a car at a road block at 27th Mile, Simanggang Road, on the 6th August. Their assailants are believed to have been members of a gang which had committed extortion that night in another part of the district.

A larger number of men were discharged on the ground that they were unlikely to become efficient. Recruits thought likely to be discharged are warned in time to enable them to find other employment on leaving the Training School.

Education

While most of the population remains illiterate we must recruit many illiterate men but we try to enlist recruits who are at least up to Standard III Malay. Most recruits thirst for knowledge and those who have an aptitude for study make satisfactory progress. Five civilian teachers are on class work. Facilities for the study of English are available at the main centres, as well as at the Police Training School.

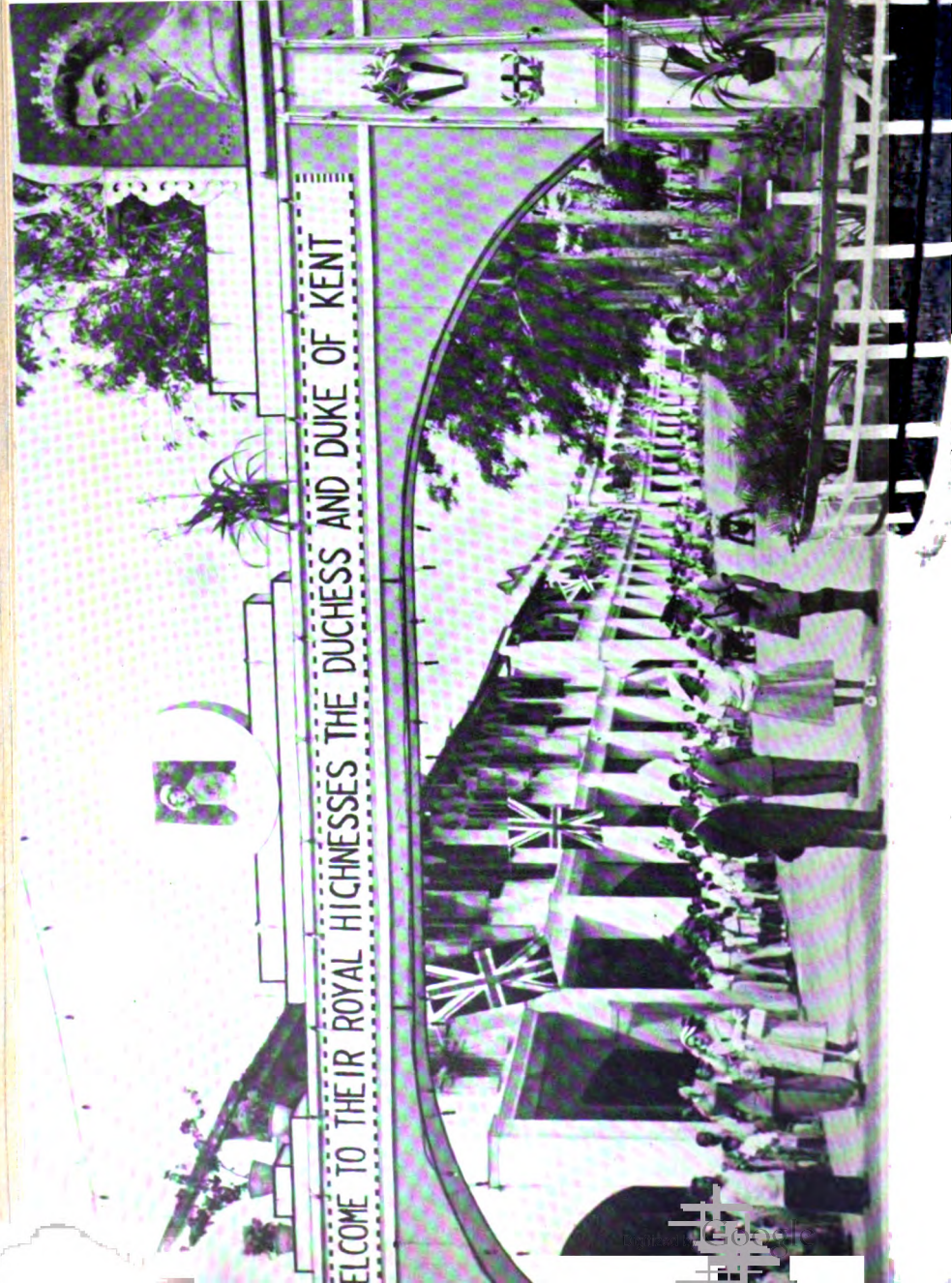
Courses of Instruction

Refresher courses continue to be held at the Police Training School. In December a number of instructors went to Kuala Lumpur

The Royal Visit—
Their Royal Highnesses
the Duchess of Kent
and the Duke of Kent
entering the Astoria
sampan shortly after
their arrival in
Kuching

Anna Photo Co.





The Royal Visi
The prize-win
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Road being insp
by Her Royal
ness during her
of Kuching

for refresher courses. Two officers attended a course on Special Branch work at Kuala Lumpur. A member of the S.I.F.E. staff gave a course of lectures at Kuching to Inspectors and English speaking members of the Rank and File. Three Inspectors have also gone to Kuala Lumpur for a course.

Two Gazetted Officers attended a Cadet Course at the Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon; two a course at the Police College at Ryton-on-Dunsmore, and one the Senior Course at the Detective Training School, Hendon.

All Gazetted Officers in rotation will take a course in Special Branch work at Kuala Lumpur.

Selected Inspectors will also receive further training in general or specialised subjects in Malaya.

Welfare

The Constabulary Co-operative Store has now a membership of 549 as against 434 last year. The turnover for the year reached a record total of \$214,469.19.

A Co-operative Store recently opened at Sibu is well supported.

The Constabulary Thrift and Loan Society has a membership of 682.

Police are encouraged to grow their own rice and vegetables.

Welfare committees catering for the needs of the Rank and File and recruits have been established and meet frequently.

A new Canteen and Reading Room will soon be completed at the Police Training School. It is designed so that N.C.Os. and men who wish to study and read may do so with a minimum of interference. The old building is inadequate and will be used as a Welfare Clinic for women and children.

Meat for recruits is being imported weekly from Singapore and it is hoped to make available supplies to the Co-operative Stores for other members of the Force and their families.

The Police now have cinema equipment at the Police Training School. Topical films are supplied on contract and full use is made of the facilities of the Government Information Service. Cinema shows are held twice a week at the Police Training School. A Clinic has been opened at the Police Training School for the wives and children of Police. Kampong dwellers who find it inconvenient to cross the river may attend.

Health

Health remains good. There has been an increase in the men treated at the dispensary and admitted to hospital. This is probably an indication not of deterioration in health but of the value of health propaganda. Men become more health-conscious, and minor ailments are brought to light which before were not reported.

Discipline

A high standard of discipline has been enforced. The men are normally respectful and obedient and where minor breaches of discipline occur the lapse is often due to youth and inexperience. Most men come to the Constabulary direct from the simple life of the long-house or the kampong.

Disciplinary offences recorded for 1952 are the lowest for four years. There has been a noticeable drop in more serious offences.

Stations

Stations have been increased from 54 to 56. Approval in principle has been obtained for the erection of stations at the following places in the First Division:

Pengkalan Ampat or Mongkus
Balai Ringin
Batu Kitang
32nd. Mile, Simanggang Road.

Nine stations are on VHF-radio communication and three on HF with extensions to Brunei State, Labuan, and Jesselton in North Borneo.

Special Branch

Proposals are being considered for an expansion of Special Branch in the near future. The post of Director, Special Branch, is to be created. It will be filled by an Assistant Commissioner. There will be two Superintendents (one at Headquarters, Kuching, and one at Kuala Belait).

There is also to be an Assistant Superintendent, Special Branch, at each Sector Headquarters—Kuching, Simanggang, Miri and Sibul,—responsible for Special Branch matters in his own Sector, and working under Headquarters' direction.

A corresponding increase of Special Branch Inspectors and Rank and File for Special Branch work in Sectors, twenty and forty-eight respectively, has been recommended.

Marine Branch

Shortage of staff held up progress. An increase in the Officer Establishment for 1953 has been authorised and it is hoped to appoint a Gazetted Officer as O.C. Marine and Land Transport.

During the year the launch *Margherita* travelled 8,176 nautical miles.

Other craft in the Colony are:

19 motor sampans
18 outboard motors
34 paddle boats.

Auxiliary Constabulary

Owing to shortage of Gazetted Officers it has not yet been possible to give units of the Auxiliary Constabulary the attention they deserve, but the Kuching unit was of great help to the regular force during the Royal Visit and the emergency in the First Division. With an increase in the gazetted establishment officers should be available to train the Auxiliary Constabulary more efficiently.

Constabulary Band

The Band continued to be popular. It carried out 32 public and 23 private engagements during the year, and whenever possible gave performances in the Museum Gardens on Sundays.

Buildings

There has been much improvement in housing.

Defence and Security

There were 4,399 registered aliens in the country at the end of the year. A draft new Aliens Ordinance has been prepared and submitted for approval.

The number of shotguns registered at the end of September 1952 was 45,074.

Crime

Sarawak can be proud of its low crime rate considered in relation to its size, population and the number of races inhabiting the country. There were seven murders during the year, the lowest figure for four years. There were 61 reports of housebreaking as against 57 in 1951 and 69 in 1950, and 789 reports of theft as against 690 in 1951 and 720 in 1950.

Though crime is likely to remain low, a C.I.D. should be formed now and trained to meet contingencies. The standard of crime investigation is low, and scientific aids are lacking.

General

The outstanding event of the year for the Constabulary was the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Kent. Her Royal Highness commented favourably on the unobtrusiveness and efficiency of police arrangements.

1952 was in many respects a difficult year for the Sarawak Constabulary. Despite a shortage of officers, the closest attention was given to the development and expansion of the Force.

Two platoons of North Borneo Police came to Kuching for two months during the Emergency to help the local police in carrying out patrols and ambushes over a wide and jungly area of the First Division. Their help was of much value and admirable co-operation and goodwill were shown on both sides. The situation was quickly brought under control.

PRISONS

The Prisons Department consists of a central prison at Kuching, a female prison at Bau, three divisional prisons at Simanggang, Sibu and Bintulu and ten small outstation prisons. The remainder are lock-ups. The headquarters office is in the Kuching Prison.

The Department is administered by a Superintendent who at present combines this duty with the administration of the Kuching Boys' Home. There is also an Assistant Superintendent of Prisons stationed in Kuching. District Officers are appointed as Deputy Superintendents by the Chief Secretary to supervise the outstation prisons.

Administration of the prisons has been satisfactory. The standard of efficiency and discipline of the warders has been good. The prison warden establishment has not been up to strength during the year.

The public still show little interest in penal reform and prisoners' after-care. It is most difficult to raise public interest in assisting in voluntary classes and after-care work.

Prisons are visited monthly by Visiting Boards comprised of magistrates and members of the various communities. A Prisoners' Aid Society has now been formed by Government, and the Kuching Rotary Club assists greatly both in Prisoners' Aid work and in the rehabilitation of prisoners on discharge from the Kuching prison. The prison authorities also try to help in obtaining work for prisoners after discharge.

The building of a new central prison for Sarawak was again considered during the year but the plan has been put off indefinitely. Every effort has been made to develop the principles of modern prison vocational training in the administration of the Kuching prison. The old barbed wire perimeter fence has been replaced by modern "Cyclone" fencing.

The prison camp at Batu Lintang, to which reference was made in the 1951 Annual Report, continues to flourish and may be said to have proved itself a success.

Most of the prisoners appear to have been happy and contented during the year. Prison diet was altered slightly: unpolished rice, red beans and fruits in season were issued in place of bananas daily. This has been beneficial. Prisoners did not like unpolished rice and red beans at first, but have now become quite accustomed to them and with the additional proteins their health has improved. Cases of beri-beri are very few.

A separate kitchen for Muslims was built towards the end of the year.

In the 1951 Annual Report mention was made of the leaders and

trusted prisoners system, and also the earning scheme for prisoners. Experience gained during 1952 showed that the institution of these schemes was fully justified and they have proved a success.

It is hoped that a new Prison Ordinance and rules under it will be enacted in the not too distant future.

Mr. T. Attenborough, M.B.E., O.S.S., the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, who visited the United Kingdom on a course with the Prison Commission, returned to Kuching on 2nd. April, 1952.

The Superintendent of Prisons, Major W. L. P. Sochon, D.S.O., went on furlough in October. In his absence the Assistant Superintendent of Prisons acted as Superintendent.

Staff

Recruitment continued throughout the year, and a number of Malay and Dayak warders were enrolled. Police now undertake the duties of looking after lock-ups. The general standards and efficiency of warders during the year have been good.

The approved strength of the staff is as follows:—

Superintendent of Prisons	...	...	...	1
Assistant Superintendent of Prisons	...	...	...	1
Gaolers	...	...	...	3
Head Warders	...	...	...	5
Warders Grade I	...	...	...	12
Warders (Special Duty)	...	...	...	3
Warders Grade II and Probationary Warders	...	...	...	40
Female Warders	...	...	...	3

The average number of hours worked per week is 48 and with the concentration of warders in the divisional prisons and the Kuching prison it is now possible to give warders time off during the week.

Table of offences committed by members of the staff and punishments awarded :

Late and absent from duty	Conduct to prejudice of good order & discipline	Insubordination	Neglect of duty	Asleep on duty	Traf-ficking	Other offences
13	15	4	28	16	—	4

Punishments inflicted :

Dismissed	Fined	Severe reprimand	Cautioned	Extra duty
2	35	18	2	23

(c) The following officers left the service in 1952

		<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Dismissed</i>
Warder Garde I	...	1	—
Warder Grade II	...	2	1
Probationary Warders	...	9	1

Prison Buildings

A new timber building to house the duty room, office of industry clerk and visitors' box was built during the year.

Extensions to the new barrack and the erection of a four-room barrack has improved the warders' housing considerably. The accommodation of the staff is now sufficient.

All the prisons except Kuching and Sibu are of wood. Repairs and maintenance were effected during the year.

Population Figures

See Appendices A and B on pages 113 and 114

Sentences

See Appendix B on page 114

Recidivism

At the end of the year there were 13 recidivists out of a total of 125 prisoners serving sentences in the country. The position with regard to recidivism is on the whole satisfactory.

Women Prisoners

Women prisoners serve their sentences at Bau and are under the supervision of three wardresses. The female prison can accommodate sixteen prisoners in two association cells. The daily average for female prisoners during the year was 2.5 prisoners.

Prisoners on Remand

Remand prisoners are kept in the remand block at the Kuching prison. Unfortunately facilities are still lacking for segregation in outstation and divisional prisons, with the exception of Sibu. Remand prisoners in these places are either kept in a lock-up or at the police station. They are rarely kept in the lock-up and police stations for long periods.

Classification of Prisoners

As far as possible habitual offenders are kept separated from first offenders. Alterations to the dormitory have been made and it is hoped that a system of segregation will be introduced early in 1953.

Spiritual Welfare and Education

Visits have been paid to prisoners in the divisional prisons by

members of various religious bodies. In Kuching Mass is celebrated and a spiritual welfare class run by the Roman Catholic Mission. Priests of the Anglican Mission also visit and give Communion. The Mufti of the Mosque has undertaken to visit Muslim prisoners in 1953.

Library and Organised Games

The library continues to be very popular. The British Red Cross Society and the Sarawak Government Asian Officers' Union still make weekly gifts of books and periodicals to the library. Badminton, volley ball, table tennis, chess and draughts are available for prisoners during recreation periods. A radio set is now installed in the dining room.

Health and Diet

The small prison hospital at Kuching is still proving a great success and most cases are treated within the prison; only those of a serious nature are sent to the Government General Hospital for treatment.

The health of prisoners has improved. The use of highly milled rice now abolished was probably the cause of the cases of malnutrition recorded last year.

Lunatics

Prisoners certified as lunatics are transferred to the mental hospital.

Labour

No new trade parties have been added during the year. The following is a list of the present trade parties:—

(i) Basket making and reseating of chairs (ii) Blatt making (iii) Coir mat making (iv) Brick making (v) Tinsmithing (vi) Blacksmithing (vii) Carpentering (viii) Shoe repairing (ix) Laundry (x) Tailoring (xi) Building.

External Work

A party of prisoners worked at tree felling at the Kuching airfield and another makes bricks for the Public Works Department at the 7th. Mile.

Inspection and Visits

Prisoners are entitled to visits once a week from their relatives and friends. All prisons were visited by the Superintendent of Prisons during the year.

Discipline has been good.

Escapes

Two remand prisoners escaped from the Remand Prison. They were recaptured 2 hours after their escape.

One convicted prisoner escaped from the external work party at Simanggang. He was at large at the end of the year.

Executions

No executions took place during the year.

Remission

Remission is granted to prisoners with sentences of more than one month. Remission granted to prisoners serving up to twelve months is one-sixth and to those serving sentences over a year one-fourth of the sentence. Female prisoners serving sentences up to one year receive one-sixth and over one year one-third remission of their sentences.

Financial

- (a) The total expenditure on penal administration was \$299,607.65.
- (b) The average cost of maintaining a prisoner for the year was \$1,290.82.
- (c) The average cost of feeding a prisoner for the year was \$314.41.

Previous convictions							
Once	Twice	Thrice or more	Daily average in prisons	Daily average receiving treatments for minor maladies	Admissions to hospitals	Deaths	Executions
7	4	12	104.66	11.00	36	-	-
-	1	-	1.69	-.—	-	-	-
-	-	-	-.50	-.—	-	-	-
2	1	-	1.00	-.—	-	-	-
-	-	-	3.20	-.10	-	-	-
-	-	-	-.38	-.—	-	-	-
1	-	-	-.66	-.—	-	-	-
4	2	5	11.—	-.16	3	-	-
2	1	-	2.34	-.—	-	-	-
1	-	-	4.30	-.02	-	-	-
-	-	-	1.—	-.—	-	-	-
-	-	-	1.—	-.—	-	-	-
-	-	-	-.37	-.—	-	-	-
17	9	17	132.10	11.28	39	-	-
17	9	17	129.60				
-	-	-	2.50				
-	-	-	-				

Chapter XIII

PUBLIC UTILITIES & PUBLIC WORKS

ELECTRICITY

Public electricity supplies are provided by the Sarawak Electricity Supply Company Limited, an undertaking in which the Government holds a majority of shares, the remainder being held by Messrs. United Engineers Limited of Singapore who are also the general managers.

The supply at Kuching is AC, at Sibu AC and DC, and at other stations DC. The total installed generating capacities are as follows:— Kuching 1360 KVA, Sibu 215 KVA and 106 KW, Miri 75 KW, Sarikei 50 KW, Mukah 47 KW, Binatang 41.5 KW, Simanggang 25 KW, Bintulu 22 KW, and Betong 18 KW. At the smaller stations, supplies are restricted to certain hours.

A programme of extensions to the various installations is being carried out as equipment and finance permit. Additional plant was installed at Kuching; the change over from DC to AC at Sibu is still in progress and a new power station with a capacity of 225 KW is under construction at Miri.

The total number of units generated at all stations during 1952 was 4.86 million, an increase of 17% over the previous year. Consumers numbered 3,995, an increase of 13%.

BROOKE DOCKYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS

The Brooke Dockyard and Engineering Works at Kuching is a quasi-Government establishment operated under the control of a Board of Management with commercial representation.

The drydock is 240' x 40' and vessels up to 9' draught can be docked at spring tides. Adjacent to the drydock is a slipway which can take launches up to 40' in length and 13' beam.

The machine shop is equipped to deal with repairs to hulls and machinery of vessels and general engineering work.

A total of 59 vessels were drydocked during 1952 and 20 launches slipped for repairs.

WATER SUPPLIES

Kuching

A gravity supply is obtained from a series of intakes in the Matang range about 10 miles from the town, feeding into two service tanks

with a total capacity of 3,600,000 gallons. There are approximately 2,500 connections with an average daily consumption of 1,467,000 gallons, the potential demand being considerably higher.

Relaying of the main 15" pipeline has been continued into the town but completion is held up by shortage of pipes. Various minor improvements and extensions were carried out.

Plans were well advanced for a new pumped supply from the Sarawak River at Batu Kitang, about 11 miles from Kuching. This will provide up to 3,000,000 gallons per day of treated water to augment the present supply which is subject to restriction and periodical shortages.

Sibu

The supply is pumped from the Rejang river to a purification plant and from there to a high level water tank of 80,000 gallons capacity. The average daily consumption is over 400,000 gallons with approximately 790 services.

Improvements were effected to the pumping capacity with the change over of one set of pump motors from DC to AC current, but the demand outstrips the supply and extensions are required.

Water from Sibu is also supplied by barge as required to the down-river townships of Sarikei and Binatang and occasionally to shipping at Tanjong Mani.

Mukah

Construction of the new supply was continued when materials were received. The distribution system was completed and pumps installed enabling a limited raw water supply to be given. Work is proceeding on the filtration plant and storage tank.

Miri

The town is supplied from the Sarawak Oilfields system which is unable to cope with the full demand. A combined Company and Government scheme has been prepared, under which the former will instal new equipment and mains and provide a bulk supply, Government undertaking the distribution.

A small separate water supply is maintained for the Tanjong Lobang and Brighton Areas, for which a new pumping outfit is on order.

Other Supplies

Small gravity supplies are in operation at Bau, Simunjan, Bintulu and Limbang. Replacement of the old supply main at Bau was completed and renewal of distribution mains was in progress.

Gas Supply, Miri

A supply of natural gas from the Oilfields at Seria has been installed and services to the bazaar area and Government quarters are in hand.

PUBLIC WORKS

In addition to the ever increasing volume of routine construction, major projects under the Development Plan were being initiated, which strained to the utmost the exiguous planning and executive capacity of the Department and reacted adversely on the efficient prosecution of works. While the supply position tended to improve, building costs continued to rise but there were signs at the end of the year that the peak had been reached.

During the year some 18 Senior Service quarters, 137 Junior Service quarters and 25 barracks of various types for police and others were completed.

Extensions were made to the hospitals at Simanggang and Sibu and the new hospital at Miri was completed together with the necessary Staff accommodation.

There was continued activity in bazaar construction at townships on the Rejang River and in the Fourth Division. Markets were built at Kapit, Kanowit and Mukah. Launch or Customs wharves were completed at Simanggang, Sebuyau, Lawas, Sundar and Kuala Lawas.

Progress was made on a new road and oil wharf at Bukit Biawak, Kuching, being part of a scheme for bulk storage of petroleum products. Plans for Sibu port development were completed. The project involves extensive water-front improvements and accommodation.

Two interesting river navigational improvements were begun, both schemes having been considered for many years. The first is the removal by blasting of dangerous rocks in the rapids on the Upper Rejang river between Kapit and Belaga, a stretch of approximately 80 miles. A trial run was made by a party of Royal Engineers from Singapore, who are expected to return during 1953 to complete the project. The second is the widening and deepening of Sungei Kut, a 6 mile water link between the Igan and Oya rivers to pass launch traffic and thus allow of communication from Sibu by inland waterway and road to Oya and Mukah. A small bucket dredger imported from Holland was being assembled at Sibu for this work.

INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING SERVICES

The Information Service, established early in 1951, made good progress during the year.

Mobile cinema units were increased to eight, the film library greatly expanded, and many films with commentary in Chinese and Malay bought. The quality of English educational, scientific and documentary films shown was improved and short entertainment films were

introduced. The cinema can now be brought to all parts of Sarawak accessible by road, river, sea or air, and films shown to those to whom they were hitherto unknown. The first Information Service cinema performance in a Dayak longhouse was given in the Batang Lupar in February. The audience saw the funeral procession of His Majesty King George VI fourteen days after it had taken place in London.

Plans were made for the production in Sarawak of 35 mm. and 16 mm. films by the Information Office, and by the end of December a cameraman had been trained by the Malayan Film Unit in Kuala Lumpur. Interest in short documentary films of public, social and sporting events has always been great and it is considered particularly worth while to show films of Sarawak to the people of Sarawak.

A river craft was bought for operation along the Rejang River. The boat is based on Sibul, whence it can serve many scattered places. A mobile cinema and public address van is being delivered to Miri for use there and in the oilfields. Help was given in setting up and stocking reading rooms in outstations and plans have been made to extend these during 1953. Reading rooms well stocked with papers and equipped with good radio receivers can do much to bring the outstations and the *ulu* into closer contact with the rest of the country and the outer world.

The circulation, size and quality of the two Information Service monthly papers, *Padoman Ra'ayat* in Malay and *Pembrita* in Sea Dayak (Iban) were increased and improved. Help was given to other departmental publications.

The English and Chinese press increased in circulation in 1953, and a new Chinese daily newspaper, the *Sarawak Vanguard*, began publication in Kuching in November. Visiting journalists and photographers were welcomed. For the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Kent in October seventeen journalists and photographers came from abroad.

The distribution of newspapers, periodicals and other publications in Sarawak was increased. These were sent to administrative centres, schools, clubs, societies and institutions.

The Information Service acted as agent for the United States Information Service in the distribution of publications and the showing of films. Co-operation was most friendly. The American Information Office in Singapore has been very generous in the supply of material and was always ready to accept advice about the type of publication and film suitable for Sarawak.

Plans were approved by Council Negri in May for the setting up of a broadcasting service. The service should be in operation at the end of 1953 or early in 1954. Medium and short wave programmes will be radiated in English, Malay, Chinese and Iban. The generous help of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, in making

a grant from Colonial Development and Welfare Funds of £47,300 towards the capital cost, has been supplemented by a capital expenditure by the Government of Sarawak of \$427,741. The advice and help given by the Colonial Office, the British Broadcasting Corporation and Radio Malaya has been invaluable. The Sarawak Government is especially indebted to the BBC for the secondment of two of the Corporation's London-based staff as Chief Engineer and Programme Organiser.

PRINTING

At the beginning of the year, the Printing Office was still settling into the new building to which it moved late in 1951.

When this was done Government decided that the office should be modernised, equipped with up-to-date machinery and made able to deal adequately with the greatly increased quantity of official printing.

To this end, Mr. H. T. Ross, O.B.E., Government Printer, Federation of Malaya, was invited to report on the office and to submit recommendations for its improvement.

He came in March 1952 and recommended that new equipment and machinery to the value of \$262,000 should be installed and a second Senior Service officer engaged.

The report was accepted and the new equipment ordered. None had arrived at the end of 1952 but it is all expected early in 1953.

Even without the new equipment the Office has steadily improved during the year. It prints the Government Gazettes, the *Sarawak Gazettes*, a Malay and a Dayak monthly newspaper, fifteen hundred different kinds of forms, Ordinances and Estimates. Large arrears of work have been completed and when the re-organisation is finished the Office should produce work much more quickly than in the past.

Chapter XIV

COMMUNICATIONS

WATER

The rivers and the sea are the principal means of communication, there being few roads and only two airports in the country.

Regular sailings were maintained throughout the year between Kuching and Singapore, and Sibü and Singapore, by vessels of the Sarawak Steamship Company. Straits Steamship Company vessels continued to call at Pending to and from North Borneo. Direct shipments of rice from both Bangkok and Rangoon were brought into Sarawak ports by these companies. Ships bearing the flag of Panama have started calling at Kuching and Sibü bringing in cement, sugar and granite and some general cargo from Hong Kong. The *Brenda* is the most regular of these "outside" vessels. Logs are mainly loaded on their outward voyage from the Rejang. The running management of M.V. *Lucille* was taken over on the 9th August by the Sarawak Steamship Company and a scheduled run maintained to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Divisions until the end of the year when she was withdrawn from service for a complete overhaul. M.V. *Dido* has been kept running regularly with Public Works Department cargoes to all Divisions and this vessel helped salvage the wings from the Valetta aircraft which crashed near Oya.

Timber shipments continued to be very heavy from the Rejang River to Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Australia and occasionally to South Africa. The services of the pilot are being more than ever required.

Coastal Services

Locally owned coastal craft kept fairly regular services between Kuching and the main coastal ports.

The Sarawak Steamship Company maintained services between Kuching, Sibü, Bintulu, Miri and Baram with *Meluan*, *Margaret*, *Timballi*, and *Ong Tiang Swee*.

Government Owned Craft

Two new 60-foot general purpose launches arrived on the 28th April, namely *Lorna Doone* and *Alice Lorraine*, now stationed in Miri and Sibü respectively. M.V. *Heartsease*, a lighthouse tender, arrived on 21st July escorting *L'Aubaine*, a launch built for the Geological

Survey Department. The demands for launch transport increase continually and are hard to meet. A large programme of conversion has been planned and this with new tonnage on order should alleviate the situation by the end of 1953.

Casualties

During heavy weather at the end of the year a considerable amount of cargo was lost by the sinking of lighters on the Miri Bar. M.V. *Ellen Maersk*, a Danish vessel left Miri for Hong Kong and grounded on or near Louisa Reef. M.V. *Sirusa* grounded in Limbang estuary. Another vessel the M.V. *Para* grounded four miles south of Baram but cancelled her signal for assistance.

Navigational Aids

An addition to the back day mark at Tg. Embang has been favourably reported on by ships' masters. This addition was erected early in December.

Visits of Naval Vessels

During the year Kuching was visited by Her Majesty's Ships *Amethyst* and *Opossum*.

TOTAL DEEP SEA TONNAGE 1952

	<i>Inwards</i>	<i>Outwards</i>
Rejang River	224,586	220,024
Kuching	74,126	67,831
Miri	2,256,307	2,480,977
Total :—	<u>2,555,019</u>	<u>2,768,832</u>

TOTAL COASTWISE TONNAGE 1952

	<i>Inwards</i>	<i>Outwards</i>
Kuching	93,026	95,892
Sibu	45,180	43,880
Mukah	17,869	16,677
Bintulu	41,668	40,453
Miri	33,655	32,312
Limbang	4,266	4,314
Total :—	<u>235,664</u>	<u>233,528</u>

AIR AND ROADS

Air

There are airports at Kuching and Sibü and a landing strip at Lutong near Miri.

The Kuching airport has a tarmac runway and apron, Class E. 5. Work proceeded throughout the year on the filling and grading of verges and overruns. Extensions were made to the terminal building to improve immigration and passenger facilities and amenities. Accommodation for airport services and staff was built.

Five weekly services in each direction are now operated by Malayan Airways through Kuching on the Singapore-North Borneo service. A total of 622 landings (including 9 night landings) were made, an increase of 25% over the previous year. Of the total, 24% were non-schedule flights. Substantial increases in passenger and freight movements through the airport were recorded, the total of passengers landed and uplifted amounting to 4,747 or 54% more than in 1952.

The airfield at Sibü has a gravel surface, Class F Dakota Standard. Work is also proceeding here on completion of verges and overruns involving extensive filling of bomb craters and low areas. Terminal buildings are of temporary construction.

Sibü airfield was accepted as an 'alternate' to Kuching by Malayan Airways in May, 1952, and schedule services were started on July 1st with two flights each way per week. By the end of the year the services had been increased to four per week. A total of 166 landings were made, of which 13 were by military aircraft. Passenger movements in and out totalled 1,652.

At Lutong, the grass airstrip is maintained by Sarawak Oilfields Limited for private use by Company aircraft.

Proposals are afoot for the establishment of an internal air service as an extension to that operated in North Borneo.

The Borneo Evangelical Mission has constructed small private grass landing strips at Lawas, Bah Kelalan and Long Semado in the Fifth Division and at Long Atip and Long Tebangan in the Fourth Division.

The Mission has an Auster 5 aeroplane which they land on these strips.

Roads

The road system is confined to a few networks in and around the the main centres of population, all of which are situated on rivers and have for long regarded travel by water as their natural means of surface communication.





The distances and the terrain involved, with its creeks, swamps or jungle, render the construction of connecting or through roads a major task and an expensive one. The climate and general unsuitability of local materials also necessitate a comparatively high standard of construction if the road is to give reasonable service.

Approximate mileages of road at present are :—

Hard surfaced	80 miles
Gravelled or metalled	77 "
Dry weather earth roads	118 "
Dry weather Jeep tracks	195

Extensive reconstruction or improvements to township roads in Kuching, Sibü and Miri were carried out during the year. Other main activities included :—

Serian-Simanggang Road: The survey for this 90 miles of road was commenced in 1950 and field work was completed at the end of the year. The project is being undertaken by a Singapore engineering firm.

Kuching-Serian Road: work was continued on the bitumen surfacing of the existing narrow track, a total of 10 miles being done together with the reconstruction of various bridges, a new 90 feet concrete bridge, and the opening up of two new quarries. There remain 15 miles to be completed on this 40 mile stretch.

Bau Road: reconstruction to bitumen standard was begun on a cost plus fixed fee contract of this 15 mile road. Progress was disappointing.

Road to Sibü Airfield: fair progress was made with earthworks on the various realignments and a concrete bridge 100 feet in length was started.

The scarcity of accessible sources of good roadstone in the Third and Fourth Divisions is a serious problem and a project for opening up a major granite quarry at Sebuyau is in hand. A pilot scheme will first be installed, to be developed later as circumstances warrant, with a possibility of supplying the oilfields and Brunei. Stone is at present being imported from Hong Kong for Sibü roadworks, while the oilfields import stone from Singapore.

The oilfields have also developed a sand-lime bitumen plant mix for the roads in their area where sand is plentiful.

POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

Thirty-four Post Offices operated in Sarawak during 1952.

Mails

External mail services with Singapore were maintained by sea once a week and by air four times a week each way.

In August the air mail service to and from Singapore was extended to Sibu three times weekly and continued throughout the year; and internal air mail service was used continually between Kuching and the 4th and 5th Divisions via Labuan and between Kuching and Sibu in the 3rd Division during the latter half of the year.

Parcels

There was an increase in the number of parcels handled during 1952, as compared with 1951; comparative figures are as follows :—

		Parcels Despatched		Parcels Received
1951	...	11,100	...	28,100
1952	...	14,280	...	32,376

External Money Orders

Money Orders sent and received during 1952 are shown hereunder against corresponding figures for 1951 :—

	Sent		Received	
	1951	1952	1951	1952
Malaya	\$ 76,450	\$ 71,244	\$ 37,140	\$ 36,749
India	146,240	205,696	420	591
United Kingdom	9,060	7,196	2,550	2,685
North Borneo	10,800	3,653	13,100	15,190

Telegraphs

The amount of traffic is indicated by the following records of number of words :—

FOREIGN TRAFFIC

		Sent		Received
1951	...	866,140	...	901,680
1952	...	821,480	...	944,110

INTERNAL TRAFFIC

		Government		Private
1951	...	1,589,250	...	1,242,000
1952	...	1,765,540	...	1,456,890

Savings Bank

The number of depositors in the Savings Bank at the end of 1952 was 5,424 an increase of 527 during the year.

The amount standing to the credit of depositors at the end of 1952 was \$3,102,976.37.

Deposits amounted to \$1,504,377.51 and withdrawals to \$1,473,777.34.

Telephones

A great deal of planning was done during the year and plans were approved for the improvement of telephone and radio communications for the country. These include a system of V.H.F. Radio, which will eventually link all the telephones in Sarawak, and an automatic exchange and underground cable system for Kuching.

The 400 line magneto exchange installed in 1925 at Kuching continued to give service.

Staff

Shortage of staff has meant long hours of working and difficulty in granting leave. Recruitment of staff with suitable educational qualifications has been slow.

Chapter XV

SCIENCE AND THE ARTS

The Museum during 1952

The Sarawak Museum established by the second Rajah Brooke in 1886 has grown into a fine mixed museum, having the best collection of Borneo arts and crafts to be found anywhere. It is the only museum in the island of Borneo. Situated in beautiful grounds in the centre of Kuching, it is a great attraction both to tourists and local institutions. Of the approximately 80,000 visitors during 1952 about a quarter were Dayaks, a third Malays, a third Chinese and the rest European and other races. School children accompanied by their teachers came in increasing numbers. The two great stuffed orang-utans, the snakes, the big whale skeleton and the human heads interest the young, while the photographs of Kuching in the past and the crafts collections especially attract the older visitors.

The Museum has steadily expanded its services and activities in the past five years. One result is a severe shortage of space for the reference collections, reference library, research and office facilities. Plans are well-advanced to meet this defect by building a new block in the Museum grounds. \$250,000 has been provided for this purpose in the Estimates for 1953.

The lack of exhibits of clouded leopard and honey bear, noted in the 1951 report, has now been remedied with a pleasant display prepared by the Museum's taxidermist. This material was previously obtained during an expedition to the Kelabit country in the headwaters of the Baram. The new sambhur deer exhibit is still inadequate; a big male with fine horns is needed.

The small live animals section was re-organised and the big cage for apes re-built. New casts of snakes and fish were added in the public galleries. A very attractive relief model of Sarawak and Brunei on a horizontal scale of 4 miles and vertical of 4,000 feet to the inch was put on display. This was prepared by the Lands & Surveys Department and exhibited at the Colombo Exhibition.

Research during the Year

Through, or in conjunction with, the Museum, four main types of research have been carried on during 1952:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| (1) Anthropological | (2) Historical |
| (3) Archaeological | (4) Zoological* |

*Botanical work is at present in the hands of the Forestry & Agricultural Departments, geology with the Geological Survey.

Progress was made with all of these and particularly archaeological research. But the gaps in the scientific knowledge of Borneo remain tremendous, when compared with the data available for other parts of South East Asia where there have been long-established research institutions—as for instance in Indonesia, Malaya, Indo-China and the Philippines. It is no exaggeration to say that the large gaps in knowledge about Borneo continually obstruct specialised or scholarly attempts to complete scientific theories throughout South East Asia generally. On the other hand, for this very reason, almost any research undertaken in Borneo, generally, and in Sarawak in particular, produces exciting new results; results which sometimes may profoundly influence or alter previous existing theory.

Anthropological Research

The activities of the Museum are largely focussed on anthropological and ethnological aspects of the country, which offer fascinating potentialities in the human field. The principal lines of anthropological research have been three:

- (1) the Kelabits of the far interior;
- (2) group contacts and conflicts; and
- (3) native legend, with particular relation to migrations and geography.

(1) The Kelabits of the far interior

This study, begun in 1945 and carried on each year for periods varying between two and nine months, was continued in 1952.

Early in December the Curator left for the area. In the past it has always been necessary to make a long and trying journey to reach the uplands, with some days on foot and the crossing of high mountain ranges. A new precedent was established on this occasion. The Borneo Evangelical Mission kindly offered to take the Curator in their aircraft—an Auster flown by Mr. Bruce Morton—to their recently completed airfield in the upper Trusan. From here it was only three days' walk to the study area around Bareo. The Curator planned to build another airfield at Bareo so that he could fly out early in 1953. As well as the great saving in costs and in time—one hour to Lawas or Miri instead of 10-15 days,—an airfield there (probably the highest permanently inhabited point in Sarawak, 3,500 ft.) would offer prospects of opening up what has previously been the least accessible area in the territory. The Kelabit peoples feel deeply their isolation and their difficulties in carrying down to the river lines produce suitable for sale to Chinese traders in exchange for iron and cloth.

The Curator took up tea, coffee and hemp for introduction there. Potatoes, peas, lettuce and other market vegetables have already been proved to flourish.

The Kelabits are a people who have never within their remembered history accepted the stagnation their mountain-girt oasis might seem to impose. They are the only inland people of Sarawak with their own system of irrigation—at Bareo very extensive—and with buffalo, cattle, goats, and the secret of using salt springs (a vital factor in their economy). This is one reason why study of them is especially rewarding.

It is intended to carry on the survey for a number of years. The social life, individual behaviour, group and personal belief of Kelabit people have been studied in intimate detail, three people usually being employed in collecting data under the Curator's general direction. It is hoped in due course to produce a series of monographs describing the social anthropology of these people, who still have an active megalithic culture alongside their advanced agriculture. It is believed that (if successfully continued) this may be one of the closest long-term studies of an Asian community yet undertaken.

(2) *Group contacts and conflicts*

In 1952 attention in this field was centred on the smaller sections of the Land Dayaks in the Kuching area, and on further study of the almost vanished Serus of the Kalaka district.

In Sarawak the movements of expanding groups, such as the Land and Sea Dayaks, have dominated the cultural and economic development of the country for many centuries. Some groups have been overwhelmed or absorbed. Other smaller groups have by various means actually taken over power and control from much larger groups. The series of studies in this field aim to measure this process with particular reference to the extinction of groups and the numerical decline of a number of major units. As well as research undertaken through the Museum, it is anticipated that use will be made of the field studies begun in 1947 (and now completed) by four anthropologists from the London School of Economics and one from Oxford University; each studied one particular group.

(3) *Native legend with particular relation to migration and geography*

The Museum Research Assistant spends about a half of each year recording legends in the original native text. This work is done to plan, and will eventually cover Sarawak as a whole. It is being found that this legendary material contains an enormous amount of fact, particularly in relation to the origins and movements of people (not only within Sarawak but from other areas).

Malay Socio-Economic Survey 1952—1953

This survey is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds from London and is a two year project to supply information on Malay problems of health, nutrition, education, social organisations, housing standard, shopping and marketing facilities, labour and loan conditions, land usage and so on. The Malay community was the only large one not included in studies previously undertaken by London School of Economics students supervised by Dr. E. R. Leach.

Field work was especially concentrated in the First Division. Unfortunately, the declaration of a temporary state of emergency in August, covering the main study area, obstructed work there during the latter part of year.

Three geography graduates of the University of Malaya have worked during July and August in the lower reaches of the Sarawak River, especially Santubong (an important summer fishing village with related monsoon rubber economy) and the sister village of Pasir Pandak (with a basic summer rice and monsoon fruit economy). These students, two of them Malay and one Chinese, proved highly competent. Under the general direction of Professor E. H. G. Dobby a detailed questionnaire was drawn up and a planned schedule of observations, with particular reference to land and river usage, was prepared. This unit worked in conjunction with members of the staff of the Sarawak Museum; and with the headman of Santubong (Shukri) and another native (Jommel) both of whom have worked with the Museum in the past and been trained to some extent in objective recording.

Full observations of fishing, rubber, rice planting, fruit orchards, the layout and organisation of the village, upriver and marine trade, relations with Chinese, individual character and community co-operation and other matters were obtained. One hundred of the approximately 170 houses in Santubong and the whole 46 in Pasir Pandak were studied in detail—involving the active participation of the householders.

Through the courtesy of the Director of Medical Services, a senior member of the Medical Department, Mr. George Jamuh, who has undertaken several previous surveys for the Museum—including an extensive study of coastal fishing in 1949-1950—was seconded for this survey. He made a close study of the Lower Rejang communities with special reference to fishing and particularly for comparison with Santubong. A report has been received and is being checked. It is rich in economic and statistical information. When the report has been more fully examined it is hoped to direct the work to other districts in the delta and to fill in gaps.

During November, fourteen senior Malay students from Batu Lintang who had previously been given some basic training in social

interview work usefully extended the socio-economic survey of Malays to Kuching. They interviewed over 300 households on a wide range of topics and recorded replies in questionnaire form. The result was so promising that it was planned to continue this co-operation next year. Nearly every person interviewed in Kuching was positively co-operative and expressed readiness to assist by supplying further information whenever required. It is particularly good that many Malays are helping so actively.

Historical Research

This overlaps with sections of the anthropological and archaeological researches, as indeed all aspects of human study overlap if pursued to their logical limits. The work depends on the Archives Section of the Museum, established in 1949. This has continued in 1952 to expand with the accumulation of important documents as well as the day to day recording of current literature and events (including records obtained by photography, through the Museum Photographic Unit, newly equipped).

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Gratifying advances have been made in this, the least touched, research field in Sarawak. The high rubber prices—which (as stated in the 1951 report) had made adequate labour costly and scarce in the readily accessible areas—declined, and the greater availability of labour made it possible to start quite large scale digging on the Ja'ong creek at Santubong, reannoitred in 1951 and provisionally recognised as likely to be a fruitful site.

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The distances and the terrain involved, with its creeks, swamps or jungle, render the construction of connecting or through roads a major task and an expensive one. The climate and general unsuitability of local materials also necessitate a comparatively high standard of construction if the road is to give reasonable service.

Approximate mileages of road at present are :—

Hard surfaced	80 miles
Gravelled or metalled	77 "
Dry weather earth roads	118 "
Dry weather Jeep tracks	195

Extensive reconstruction or improvements to township roads in Kuching, Sibü and Miri were carried out during the year. Other main activities included :—

Serian-Simanggang Road: The survey for this 90 miles of road was commenced in 1950 and field work was completed at the end of the year. The project is being undertaken by a Singapore engineering firm.

Kuching-Serian Road: work was continued on the bitumen surfacing of the existing narrow track, a total of 10 miles being done together with the reconstruction of various bridges, a new 90 feet concrete bridge, and the opening up of two new quarries. There remain 15 miles to be completed on this 40 mile stretch.

Bau Road: reconstruction to bitumen standard was begun on a cost plus fixed fee contract of this 15 mile road. Progress was disappointing.

Road to Sibü Airfield: fair progress was made with earthworks on the various realignments and a concrete bridge 100 feet in length was started.

The scarcity of accessible sources of good roadstone in the Third and Fourth Divisions is a serious problem and a project for opening up a major granite quarry at Sebuyau is in hand. A pilot scheme will first be installed, to be developed later as circumstances warrant, with a possibility of supplying the oilfields and Brunei. Stone is at present being imported from Hong Kong for Sibü roadworks, while the oilfields import stone from Singapore.

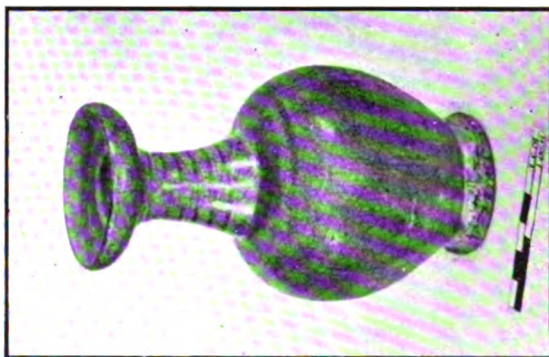
The oilfields have also developed a sand-lime bitumen plant mix for the roads in their area where sand is plentiful.

POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

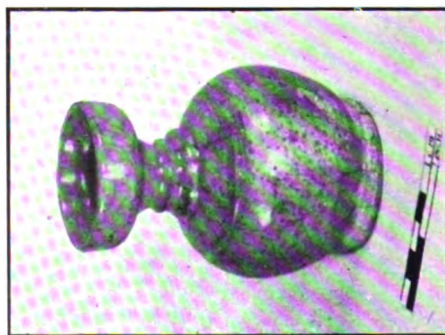
Thirty-four Post Offices operated in Sarawak during 1952.

Mails

External mail services with Singapore were maintained by sea once a week and by air four times a week each way.



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Most of the mountains are sandstone, but there are extrusions of limestone appearing as low pinnacles 10-15 feet high, or as hills, with sheer sides, weathered and crumbling, rising up to 1,500 feet, with scrub on top.

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The greater part of the country is under forest, with areas of rubber or sago plantations in the neighbourhood of government stations and along the numerous rivers and of coconuts along the coast.

The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

The Curator took up tea, coffee and hemp for introduction there. Potatoes, peas, lettuce and other market vegetables have already been proved to flourish.

The Kelabits are a people who have never within their remembered history accepted the stagnation their mountain-girt oasis might seem to impose. They are the only inland people of Sarawak with their own system of irrigation—at Boreo very extensive—and with buffalo, cattle, goats, and the secret of using salt springs (a vital factor in their economy). This is one reason why study of them is especially rewarding.

It is intended to carry on the survey for a number of years. The social life, individual behaviour, group and personal belief of Kelabit people have been studied in intimate detail, three people usually being employed in collecting data under the Curator's general direction. It is hoped in due course to produce a series of monographs describing the social anthropology of these people, who still have an active megalithic culture alongside their advanced agriculture. It is believed that (if successfully continued) this may be one of the closest long-term studies of an Asian community yet undertaken.

(2) *Group contacts and conflicts*

In 1952 attention in this field was centred on the smaller sections of the Land Dayaks in the Kuching area, and on further study of the almost vanished Serus of the Kalaka district.

In Sarawak the movements of expanding groups, such as the Land and Sea Dayaks, have dominated the cultural and economic development of the country for many centuries. Some groups have been overwhelmed or absorbed. Other smaller groups have by various means actually taken over power and control from much larger groups. The series of studies in this field aim to measure this process with particular reference to the extinction of groups and the numerical decline of a number of major units. As well as research undertaken through the Museum, it is anticipated that use will be made of the field studies begun in 1947 (and now completed) by four anthropologists from the London School of Economics and one from Oxford University; each studied one particular group.

(3) *Native legend with particular relation to migration and geography*

The Museum Research Assistant spends about a half of each year recording legends in the original native text. This work is done to plan, and will eventually cover Sarawak as a whole. It is being found that this legendary material contains an enormous amount of fact, particularly in relation to the origins and movements of people (not only within Sarawak but from other areas).

Malay Socio-Economic Survey 1952—1953

This survey is financed by Colonial Development and Welfare funds from London and is a two year project to supply information on Malay problems of health, nutrition, education, social organisations, housing standard, shopping and marketing facilities, labour and loan conditions, land usage and so on. The Malay community was the only large one not included in studies previously undertaken by London School of Economics students supervised by Dr. E. R. Leach.

Field work was especially concentrated in the First Division. Unfortunately, the declaration of a temporary state of emergency in August, covering the main study area, obstructed work there during the latter part of year.

Three geography graduates of the University of Malaya have worked during July and August in the lower reaches of the Sarawak River, especially Santubong (an important summer fishing village with related monsoon rubber economy) and the sister village of Pasir Pandak (with a basic summer rice and monsoon fruit economy). These students, two of them Malay and one Chinese, proved highly competent. Under the general direction of Professor E. H. G. Dobby a detailed questionnaire was drawn up and a planned schedule of observations, with particular reference to land and river usage, was prepared. This unit worked in conjunction with members of the staff of the Sarawak Museum; and with the headman of Santubong (Shukri) and another native (Jommel) both of whom have worked with the Museum in the past and been trained to some extent in objective recording.

Full observations of fishing, rubber, rice planting, fruit orchards, the layout and organisation of the village, upriver and marine trade, relations with Chinese, individual character and community co-operation and other matters were obtained. One hundred of the approximately 170 houses in Santubong and the whole 46 in Pasir Pandak were studied in detail—involving the active participation of the householders.

Through the courtesy of the Director of Medical Services, a senior member of the Medical Department, Mr. George Jamuh, who has undertaken several previous surveys for the Museum—including an extensive study of coastal fishing in 1949-1950—was seconded for this survey. He made a close study of the Lower Rejang communities with special reference to fishing and particularly for comparison with Santubong. A report has been received and is being checked. It is rich in economic and statistical information. When the report has been more fully examined it is hoped to direct the work to other districts in the delta and to fill in gaps.

During November, fourteen senior Malay students from Batu Lintang who had previously been given some basic training in social

interview work usefully extended the socio-economic survey of Malays to Kuching. They interviewed over 300 households on a wide range of topics and recorded replies in questionnaire form. The result was so promising that it was planned to continue this co-operation next year. Nearly every person interviewed in Kuching was positively co-operative and expressed readiness to assist by supplying further information whenever required. It is particularly good that many Malays are helping so actively.

Historical Research

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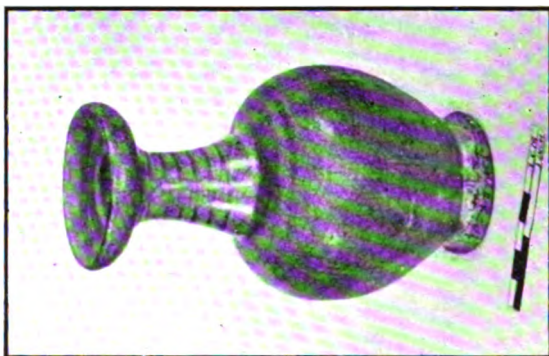
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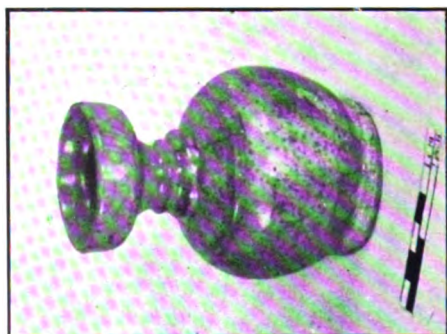
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The few islands off the coast are small and of little importance. Roads are few, and travel is mainly by sea and river. The climate is warm and humid, day temperatures averaging 85°F. Annual rainfall varies from 100 to 200 inches.

Principal Towns

Kuching, the capital, stands on the Sarawak river some 18 miles from the sea. It is an attractively laid out town with a population of about 38,000. The trading community is almost entirely composed of Chinese who live in the town proper, built of brick usually plastered and colour-washed and with roofs of tile. Within the town limits are large Malay villages or suburbs. The Governor's residence is Astana on the north (left) bank of the river and there also are Fort Margherita (the headquarters of the Sarawak Constabulary), large Malay riverside kampongs and several residential bungalows.

The town, the main Government offices, the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals and Schools, the wharves, warehouses and dock-yard are on the south bank of the river. The town area is administered by a Municipal Council.

Sibu, the second town of Sarawak, is situated some 80 miles up the Rejang River at its confluence with the Igan river. It is thus a natural river anchorage and port, though the size of ocean-going ships able to reach it is limited by the narrowness of the channel in one or two places.

The town, with Government offices, hospital, wharves and warehouses, lay on a small island until a causeway was built connecting it with the mainland.

The whole town area is low lying and much of it subject to flood, but large building operations, with piling and filling have in some measure stopped flooding in the bazaar.

The town and its immediate hinterland are administered by an Urban District Council, and the country district by a Rural District Council, with a joint Finance Committee. The population of the town is over 10,000. Sibu is the Headquarters of the Resident of the Third Division.

Miri, the Headquarters of the Resident of the Fourth Division, is on the coast some 15 miles from the mouth of the Baram river and to the south-west of that river. Miri owes its existence to the Sarawak Oilfields and has a population of about 9,000. It suffered severe damage in the war, the town being almost entirely destroyed, but its reconstruction is now far advanced. The bazaar, wharves, hospital and oil company offices lie along the narrow strip of flat land between the sea and the steep slopes about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles inland. The Government residential area is at Tanjong Lobang, some 2 miles from the town.

Other centres of population are: Limbang (headquarters of the Fifth Division), Simanggang (headquarters of the Second Division), Sarikei, Binatang, Mukah and Bintulu. All are small settlements of a few thousand people, with bazaars, Government offices and quarters, and wharves.

Vegetation

Moss forest occurs on the tops of hills over 4,500 feet, that is, on the peaks in the north-east area, such as Dulit and Mulu.

Tropical rain forest, with trees of the hill varieties (as distinct from swamp varieties), covers the greater part of the territory, except for the swamp areas near the coast and the cultivated areas.

Mangrove occurs extensively near the mouths of the Sarawak and Rejang Rivers.

Nipah palm lines the banks of most rivers from the mouths up to the edge of the swampy area.

Rivers

The drainage system is controlled by the border range, and the central secondary range, both running NE-SW, decreasing in elevation, and by the ridges at right angles to these two.

The Rejang and Sarawak Rivers are navigable by ocean-going ships for 170 and 22 miles respectively measured along the rivers. Others are navigable by coastal steamers, and others by launches. Most of the rivers have shallow bars which limit the sizes of vessels entering.

In their lower courses the banks and bottoms of the rivers are generally of a stiff glutinous mud. For varying distances from the mouths the river-bank vegetation is usually mangrove, and further up nipah. As the coastal swamps are left behind, the river banks rise above the normal high water level, and in the Trusan, Limbang, Baram and Rejang Rivers, gorges and dangerous rapids occur well below the sources.

Climate and Meteorology

The season October to March is, in general, the season of heavy rains, strong winds and high seas, with occasional periods of calm. It is the season of the north-east monsoon. Except for a transitional month at each end, the remainder of the year has less rainfall, with occasional droughts lasting up to three weeks, and with clear skies.

Annual rainfall varies from under 100 inches near the coast away from the mountains to over 200 inches inland in the neighbourhood of mountains. In the coastal area from Miri to Labuan most of the rainfall is between midnight and dawn. The year's rainfall at Kuching was 158.54 inches. The maximum monthly rainfall was 24.56 inches in January and the minimum 7.38 inches in June. The effect of rainfall is most felt in the head-waters of the rivers, where the rivers may rise by as much as 50 feet above their normal level.

Prevailing winds are from the north and north-east in the season October-March, the wet season, when there is generally a swell from the north-east, and from the south-west for the remainder of the year. The worst storms are usually in December and March.

Chapter XVII

GEOLOGY

Sarawak occupies an important position in the chain of islands lying off the coast of South East-Asia. Mountains form the hinterland of the country and consist largely of ancient rocks; these highlands are essentially a prolongation of the Philippine ranges, which continue southwards into northern Borneo, swing gradually south-westwards after entering Sarawak, and then trend west before gradually curving northwest. In the extreme west of the country there is a sudden change in this trend and structures strike north or north-northeast in common with the Malayan regional strike.

The territory can be subdivided into three main geological areas: the influence of the different rock types in these areas is shown in that they also form three geographical divisions: interior mountains, bordering undulating country containing isolated mountain groups, and low-lying coastal tracts.

The mountainous area is formed largely of ancient Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic rocks. It consists mainly of hard, crystalline rocks, comprising shale, schist, phyllits, hornstone, chert, marble, limestone, and quartzite; igneous intrusions are common in some districts.

The undulating country, which rises occasionally to over 2,000 feet, consists mainly of Tertiary sediments. These comprise sandstone, shale, grit, conglomerate and limestone; seams of coal occur, and oil reservoirs in British Borneo have to date only been found in such formations. The Tertiary sediments are economically the country's most important deposits, being the source of both oil and coal.

The low-lying coastal tracts are formed from Pleistocene and recent deposits: these areas are mostly occupied by alluvium and many of them are swampy. The sediments vary from soft mud and peat, to unconsolidated sands, and rare shell banks. Raised beaches are found in some areas, even at a distance from the coast, and there are isolated patches of recent sediment inland representing marine, river and lake accumulation.

Igneous rocks comprising intrusions of granite and diorite are common in West Sarawak, and there is also some gabbro. Dykes, sills, and plugs, mainly of quartz porphyry, andesite, and less commonly dolerite, have been recorded while lava, tuff, agglomerate, and basalt also occur at a number of localities. These are most

commonly found associated with Mesozoic sedimentary rocks. The formation of metalliferous mineral deposits, such as gold, antimony, and mercury, appears to be genetically related to the igneous intrusions. Recent work in Upper Sarawak has shown that igneous intrusions there often contain small amounts of gold.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEYING AND RESEARCH

The Geological Survey Department covering Sarawak, North Borneo and Brunei was established in March, 1949, with money provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and has been working for three years in the 80,000 square miles which form the territories. Two geological offices have been built, one in 1949 at Kuching in Sarawak, and the other in 1952 at Jesselton in North Borneo; in Brunei work can be done after consultation with the British Resident. The staff comprises 5 geologists and 22 Asian field assistants, draughtsmen and clerks. The Department is well equipped to deal with the geological investigations it is normally called upon to undertake in the region, and a launch, especially designed for river and coastal work, was built in 1952.

The ultimate aim of the department is to help in the development of the region's resources. The survey acquires geological knowledge of the area, and helps in its application. Geologists concentrate on mineral resources, but in a modern State geology also plays an important part in assisting agriculture and civil engineering projects: soil surveys, road dam construction, water supply schemes, the construction of air-fields, and a variety of other undertakings, can all be helped by applying geological data. Although most geological work to-day is directed towards material ends, information collected during a survey is also of both scientific and cultural value.

The first work of the department was the collection of past geological and mining records, and the recording of known mineral occurrences. Investigations of deposits followed and soon revealed that it was necessary to obtain a definite knowledge of the regional geology before detailed work could be of full value. In most territories the geological setting is something that is already known as geological surveys have generally been established for 20 years or more; here, there had been no Government survey and for some years energies must be concentrated on regional geological surveying.

This work was started by mapping districts where mineral deposits were known to occur; reconnaissance of the extensive areas concerning which little is known follows. A main aim is to prepare a regional geological map of the territories. This is a long task for a small, newly established survey working alone and making only field surveys, but it should be achieved within a few years with

the help of photo-geological interpretations and the co-operation of the geologists of the Shell group of oil companies, who have been carrying out systematic but specialised geological investigations in Sarawak since 1909. Good progress has been made with geological mapping and by 1952 geological surveying had covered over 4,500 square miles in Sarawak, and reconnaissance expeditions had been made over a far wider area.

Regional Geological Mapping

Regional geological mapping was continued during 1952. The determination of the nature and age of the rocks in British Borneo is one of the most important and immediate objects of present geological surveying; the main rock groups have been tentatively determined over part of the region, but modifications will be necessary as work progresses. The general picture shows the rock succession in West Sarawak to be Permo-carboniferous, Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous, Tertiary and Quaternary. It is doubtful whether pre-Cretaceous rocks extend into other parts of British Borneo, but Cretaceous and later systems exist throughout the region.

Geological mapping is in progress at widely separated districts; regional geology is being investigated in certain key areas, combined with investigations of the economic possibilities at known mineral localities. In the Upper Sarawak area regional mapping is being combined with examinations of gold, antimony and mercury occurrences; at Silantek, in the Second Division, the coal deposits have been examined and the regional geology investigated.

Precedence was given to matters of immediate economic significance, but now the survey is directing its main effort to systematic regional mapping. The economic value of this surveying, and of determining the geological succession, is likely to be long term. Oil and coal found have been in Tertiary deposits; gold, antimony, mercury, and associated sulphide minerals are related to igneous intrusion mainly in the pre-Tertiary rocks; these are also the main source of roadstone and building materials. Thus even an accurate sub-division into Tertiary and pre-Tertiary rocks would be valuable. The geologists of the Shell group are concentrating on the Tertiary deposits; the Government survey is working mainly on the pre-Tertiary formations. A cordial liaison has been maintained with the Group's geological department, and there is close co-operation in elucidating the regional geology.

This region is a difficult area for geological mapping; vegetation is dense, swamps extensive, tropical weathering of rocks widespread, communications difficult, labour scarce, and travel arduous. The result is that many investigations which can be completed in a few days in most parts, often take several weeks in this region.

Photo-Geology

Photo-geological interpretations have been the greatest help in aiding regional surveying. Interpretations are used for field mapping both by this survey and the Shell group: considerable help in the preparation of maps has been given by the photo-geological section of the Directorate of Colonial Geological Surveys, London. Fortunately in Borneo many of the main rock groups can be identified from air photographs, interpreted with field evidence. Use of interpretation maps has greatly increased the speed of geological surveying. The R.A.F. have made good progress with their air photography, and at the end of 1951 about 70 per cent (33,200 square miles) of Sarawak had been photographed. Less air photography was done in 1952, but the work may be completed in 1953. If the preparation of geological maps of this region depended only on old methods of field surveying, it would be many years before a regional map could be produced; but with the aid of air photographs one should be available in a few years.

Laboratory Research

Research results are being obtained as the result of overseas scientists working with the Geological Survey Department, mostly on problems where specialised investigations are beyond the normal routine of the Department.

Coal research has been done at the Mineral Resources Division, Colonial Geological Surveys, London, and progress has been made in explaining the unusual nature of some of the coal. Coal deposits in British Borneo are of Tertiary age: many of the seams occur in Miocene deposits, a few with Eocene sediments. Numerous seams are of lignite, but associated with them in beds of the same age are anthracitic types of coal, and low-rank bituminous coals with marked coking properties. The causes of this variation are being determined by co-ordinating the survey's geological field mapping with laboratory investigations by the Mineral Resources Division. In West Sarawak two coal samples of unusual character were found; one specimen was an anthracitic type of coal, and the other a low-rank, bituminous or lignitic coal possessing marked coking properties. Both specimens were collected from sedimentary deposits of lower Tertiary age, and their unusual qualities are believed to have been caused by regional metamorphism. At Silantek and Abok in the same district coal shows similar variations, and detailed mapping indicates these differences to have resulted from regional metamorphism at some places, while at others radical changes in the seams have been caused by contact metamorphism.

Earth-eating, a habit practised by a few of the indigenous inhabitants of British Borneo, was investigated by the Geological Survey Department during 1952. Tests were made of the different types of earth consumed. In West Sarawak a number of observations

have been made in the past on the clay eaten by Dayaks, and it was noted that this practice is commonest among pregnant women. H. L. Roth as early as 1896 observed that in the Undup valley the people "... occasionally eat a clay much resembling Fuller's Earth: they did not like it, but thought it a healthy thing to do. They seemed to think it acted as a purifier." Recent work done suggests this is pretty near the truth. The clay varies in colour from deep red to green-grey, has a soapy or greasy feel, and a tendency to stick to the tongue, characteristics of Fuller's Earth. Five specimens of clay were tested by the Minerals Resources Division: bleaching tests were made, and the calcium and iron content determined. The results show the content of iron (ferric oxide) to vary between 3 and 11 per cent, and the content of lime (CaO) to range between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{10}$ per cent. The laboratory investigation proved the clay to be of the Fuller's Earth type and indicated that for most specimens the bleaching qualities towards cotton seed and mineral oils were better than those of the well known Fuller's Earth from Surrey, England. The clay is thought to be eaten mainly for its calcium and iron content.

Chapter XVIII

HISTORY

The recent archaeological excavations at Santubong, the first on an extensive scale in Sarawak, following upon the more specialised working in caves at Bau, is beginning to give us for the first time some idea of the earliest history of Sarawak in human terms. The progress of this work is described in Chapter XV. As far as we are concerned here the importance of these excavations is that they can be summarised under three headings :

- (1) They establish that in Sarawak the iron age started much earlier than has generally been supposed. It would seem that the inhabitants of the then remote district of Upper Sarawak had iron implements many centuries ago.
- (2) The source of these is now indicated as having been through Santubong and other coastal trading centres. These show much more extensive early Chinese influence than has previously been expected.
- (3) Hindu influences appear to be emerging as much less clear-cut than was previously thought. Sarawak received the last gasp of Hinduism, heavily inter-mixed with local paganism and other influences.

A search for gold was certainly one of the primary factors in developing trade through places like Santubong but there was also a large wider trade, at least as far north as Brunei, in resins, horn-bill ivory and other jungle produce.

Gold has long been worked in the area extending from Kuching south-westward to Sambas and Montrado in West Borneo. Though the production of this area is insignificant in comparison with the present world output, it must, if Borneo gold was known in the days of the great Indian trading expeditions, have been of considerable importance in the ancient world. The fabulous "Golden Chersonese" may well have included Western Borneo and indeed a theory has recently been advanced that *Yavadvipa* (the "land of gold and silver" of the *Ramayana*), Ptolemy's *labadiou* and *Ye-po-ti*, which was visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk Fa-Hien on his return from India to China in 413-414 A.D., all refer to the country lying between Kuching and Sambas.

It is likely that Sarawak later fell under the sway of the great maritime empire of Srivijaya, the Indian Buddhist thalassocracy

centred on southern Sumatra, which reached its zenith towards the end of the twelfth century. Srivijaya fell about a century later before the attacks of Siam and the Hindu-Javanese kingdom of Majapahit, and Borneo fell within the sphere of influence of the latter. It is to this period that a considerable number of the Indian remains in Sarawak are doubtless to be dated. The Majapahit empire in its turn began to crumble early in the fifteenth century before the Muslim States established by the advance of Islam into the archipelago.

After the fall of Majapahit, Sarawak formed part of the dominions of the Malay Sultan of Brunei, and it is first known to us by name through the visits to Brunei of Pigafetta in 1521, of Jorge de Menezes in 1526, and of Gonsalvo Pereira in 1530, and from an early map of the East Indies by Mercator. Sarawak was then the name of a town on the river of the same name, doubtless occupying much the same position as Kuching, the present capital.

The history of Sarawak as an integral State begins with the first landing in August, 1839, of James Brooke. At that time Sarawak was the southern province of the Brunei Sultanate. The oppression of the Sultan's viceroy, Makota, had goaded into revolt the Malays and Land Dayaks resident in the area known as Sarawak Proper, and the Sultan had sent his uncle, the Rajah Muda Hassim, to pacify the country. The insurgents were led by Datu Patinggi Ali. James Brooke departed after a short stay and returned in 1840, to find the fighting still in progress. At the request of the Rajah Muda Hassim, he interceded in the dispute, brought about a settlement and was rewarded for his services by being installed on the 24th September, 1841, as Rajah of the territory from Cape Datu to the Samarahan River. This, however is but a small part of the total area which was later contained within the State of Sarawak.

Thereafter for the remaining twenty-three years of his life Rajah Brooke devoted himself to the suppression of piracy and head-hunting, often with the assistance of ships of the Royal Navy, which performed almost incredible feats of navigation and endurance. It is a story of high adventure, financial difficulty, and political persecution at home by the Radical party, followed by complete vindication and success. Sarawak was recognised as an independent State by the United States of America in 1850, and Great Britain granted recognition in effect by appointing a British Consul in 1864. In 1861 the territory of Sarawak was enlarged by the Sultan's cession of all rivers and lands from the Sadong River to Kidurong Point.

Sir James Brooke, at his death in 1868, bequeathed to his nephew and successor, Charles Brooke, a country paternally governed, with a solid foundation of mutual trust and affection between ruler and ruled.

The first Rajah pioneered, subdued and pacified; Sir Charles Brooke, in a long reign of fifty years, built with such conspicuous

success upon the foundations laid by his uncle that piracy disappeared, head-hunting was greatly reduced and the prosperity of the country increased by leaps and bounds.

Further large accretions of territory occurred in 1882, when the frontier was advanced beyond the Baram River; in 1885 when the valley of the Trusan River was ceded; and in 1890, when the Limbang River region was annexed at the request of the inhabitants. In 1905 the Lawas River area was purchased from the British North Borneo Company with the consent of the British Government. British protection was accorded to Sarawak in 1888.

Between 1870 and 1917 the revenue rose from \$122,842 to \$1,705,292 and the expenditure from \$126,161 to \$1,359,746. The public debt was wiped out and a considerable surplus was built up. In 1870 imports were valued at \$1,494,241 and exports at \$1,328,963. In 1917 imports totalled \$4,999,320 and exports \$6,283,071. Roads had been constructed, piped water supplies laid down and a dry dock opened in Kuching. There were telephones, and the wireless telegraph was opened to international traffic.

The third Rajah, Sir Charles Vyner Brooke, succeeded his father in 1917, and progress continued in all spheres. Head-hunting, as a result of tireless efforts, was reduced to sporadic proportions, revenue increased, enhanced expenditure resulted in improved medical and educational services, and in 1941, the centenary year of Brooke rule, the State was in a sound economic position with a large sum of money in reserve. As a centenary gesture, the Rajah enacted a new constitution, which abrogated his absolute powers and set the feet of his people on the first stage of the road to democratic self-government.

Then came the Japanese invasion and occupation. Social services and communications were neglected; education ceased; health precautions were ignored; sickness and malnutrition spread throughout the State. The people had been reduced to poverty and misery when, after the unconditional surrender of Japan, the Australian forces entered Kuching on the 11th September, 1945.

For seven months Sarawak was administered by a British Military Administration, as a result of whose efforts supplies of essential commodities were distributed, the constabulary re-formed and the medical and educational services reorganised.

The Rajah resumed the administration of the State on the 15th April, 1946. It had, however, for some time been evident to him that greater resources and more technical and scientific experience were needed to restore to Sarawak even a semblance of her former prosperity. He therefore decided that the time had come to hand the country over to the care of the British Crown, and a Bill to this effect was introduced into the Council Negri in May, 1946, and passed by a small majority. By an Order-in-Council the State became a British Colony on the 1st July, 1946.

Chapter XIX

FLORA AND FAUNA

The island of Borneo has one of the richest collections of animals and plants in the world. The outstanding characteristics of the world's third largest island, in this connection, are two in number. The first is that it is in very large part mountainous. Although there are few great mountains, there are innumerable peaks and ranges over 3,000 feet, which intersect and intermingle to form a great tangled chaos over the whole interior. Secondly, Borneo is one of the least densely populated tropical areas in the world. In Sarawak, large tracts are uninhabited. For instance, in 1951, an exploration party travelled from the last village in the Baram River over previously unmapped and unexplored country for 26 days before they reached the first long-house in the Rejang River above Belaga.

These two characteristics, great areas of mountains and of virgin jungle, give Borneo in general, and Sarawak in particular, a rich share in the fauna and flora of South East Asia.

The jungle is a great vibrating board of sound, and much of its life goes on in the top, sky-scraper high above the human visitor's head. It is always responsive to strange and ignorant noises. Also it is affected by heat and light. Its great varied humming activity comes in the early hours of morning and the late hours of the evening. At noon, the most observant watcher in the world may patrol it and fail to recognise anything other than shadow, and indeed fail to be recognised even by a mosquito!

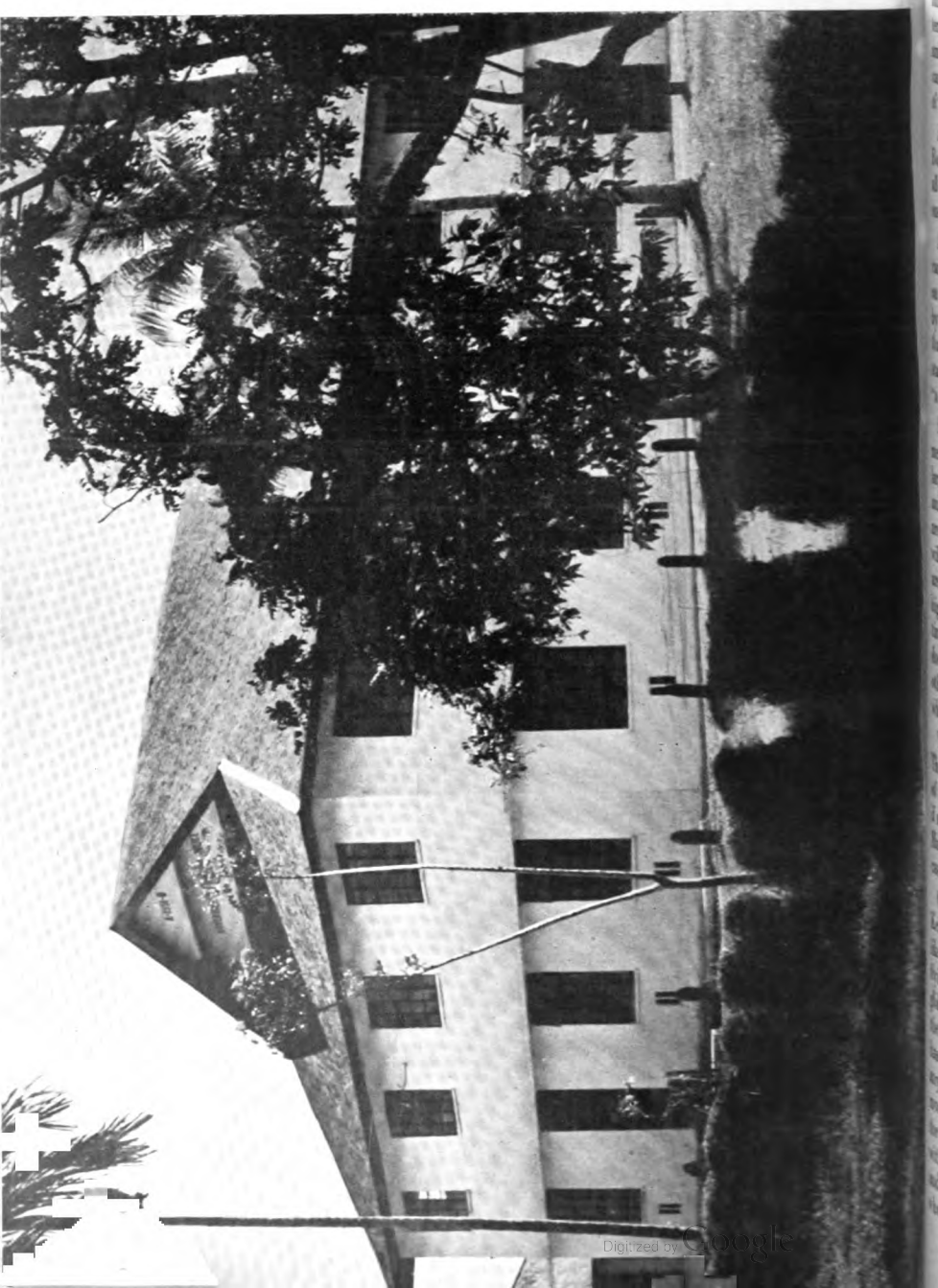
But those who are prepared patiently to master the dawn or the dusk of the Borneo jungle, will find therein one of the richest and most exciting forms of life that the human mind can describe or imagine. There are more than a hundred species of mammals. There are more than six hundred kinds of bird, of which it is easy to see and identify a hundred within a few days. There are literally tens of thousands of sorts of insect and plant. Everywhere, growing along with the darkly vivid jungle, there is vigorous life which includes some of the most ordinary as well as some of the most extraordinary animals and plants in the world.

Perhaps the most famous of Borneo animals is the orang utan or maia, one of the very few close cousins of *homo sapiens*. It is found only in Borneo and a small part of Sumatra. Despite

The Royal Visit—
Kenyah men and wo-
men who danced be-
fore Her Royal High-
ness the Duchess of
Kent in Kuching



This book was printed
here—the new Govern-
ment Printing Office
at the corner of Roca
Road and Batangas
Road, Lintang, K
ching



Phillip Jones

constant persecutions and inadequate protection, there are still a number of maias in Sarawak and in sections of the adjacent territories of Indonesian Borneo and North Borneo. This charming, amiable, chestnut-furred animal, desired by zoos all over the world, can still be seen, shambling from tree to tree in the inland sections of the First and Second Divisions.

Another of the five great apes of the world also occurs in Borneo, the gibbon or *wak-wak*, probably the most graceful of all arboreal animals. A favourite pet, it is in captivity very susceptible to pneumonic diseases.

A little below the apes are the monkeys. Here again, Sarawak can claim some distinction. The proboscis monkey, represented on North Borneo stamps, is peculiar to the island and is distinguished by an immense rubicund port-wine nose. It seems a little unfair that the native name for this otherwise elegant animal, sometimes standing almost as high as a man, is "Orang Blanda"—in English "a Dutchman."

Sarawak is rich in other mammals, of which there is space to mention only a few. The rhinoceros is dangerously near extinction, largely owing to the persistent (now illegal) hunting of these animals by the Dayaks, who sell them to the Chinese. Wild cattle are quite commonly found in the northern part of the country; wild elephants are confined to North Borneo. Three sorts of deer are extremely numerous; the sambbur deer or rusa, almost as big as a cow, is in some places a nuisance to rice farmers. The tiny mousedeer or "pelandok", famous in many Malay legends, does not seem to be so clever as the stories suggest, but on the other hand provides some of the most succulent meat for those who travel through the jungle.

There is only one dangerous animal, the honey bear or "bruang". The leopard can be immense and magnificent. But the people of the island regard it as effeminate. The honey bear, however, if upset or with a family of young, will attack the unwary traveller. Many are the stories of people who have been clawed and in some cases killed, by angry honey bears.

Of the many animals, mention may perhaps be made of the Kelabit badger, only found in the highlands, which looks rather like a skunk and performs exactly like one. The flying squirrels, flying lemurs and flying foxes give us variations on the theme of gliding. There are plenty of porcupines, who do not discharge their quills. There is a sort of bat which is blind and white, and has a pouch in which lives a special sort of insect not found anywhere else. There are caves which a million bats share with more than a million swifts in the ghostly shadows of daytime and the whirling vortex of dusk. Of course, to those who plough along with a line of porters on a time schedule little of this is revealed, and the tense crowded life of the jungle is only visible to those who give it attention.

There is also to be found in Borneo one of the richest bird faunae in the world. There are several sorts of hornbill, notorious for their domesticity—the male walls the female into the nest and feeds her therein and only liberates her when the young are ready to fly. There are several of the most beautiful pheasants in the world, including the spectacular Argus. Its feathers are more handsome than those of the peacock; its dancing grounds are stamped out of the mud so that several males can compete to the delight, or at least excitement, of Lady A.

Sarawak has parrots, broadbills, ten sorts of pigeon, egrets, nearly twenty kinds of woodpecker, exquisite honeyeaters and flower-peckers, the lovely voiced yellow-crowned bulbul, ten kinds of flashing kingfishers and so many many other birds that it is doubtful if any one person could ever learn to know and recognise them all in one life time.

Some of the birds, such as the munias or parrot finches which probably eat a few million dollars' worth of padi in a year, or the swiftlets which, from the compassion of their saliva, make edible nests worth many thousands of dollars a year, are of economic interest. The edible swifts of Sarawak, along with edible turtles, provided in days gone by two of the most favoured foods for export to gourmets in China.

Sarawak can boast of the presence of the most dangerous and deadly snake in the world, the hamadryad or king cobra. This appalling reptile, which can grow over 15 feet in length and is quite common, is one of the very few in the world which will deliberately attack human beings. It also has its own hideous beauty.

Lizards, of which there are almost a hundred kinds, are more conspicuous, especially because of the attraction which human dwellings appear to have for some varieties; the most obvious are the gecko and "chichak". An observant person will quite often see flying lizards, which actually only glide on membranes extended between the front and back limbs. Sarawak is rich in flying forms, its flying snake being one of the most spectacular. This peculiar snake, which looks quite ordinary, can (when it wishes) extend its ribs to produce two sails and soar for quite a distance. One which was let go from the upper storey of the Sarawak Museum, glided nearly 50 yards. Among the amphibians, there are also flying frogs and frogs with small bodies and huge feet upon which are suckers. There are also enormous toads, some of them weighing pounds, which like to sit on rotten tree trunks, cogitating.

For the rest, the vertebrate fauna—those with backbones—are mainly to be found in the sea. There are plenty of sharks, sometimes weighing up to hundreds of pounds. There is no

record in recent years of anybody being taken by a shark, but someone is consumed by a crocodile in the rivers each year. There seem to be very few other big fish; so far no one has shown that big game fishing is possible here. This is largely because there appears to be a shortage of feed for big fish around Sarawak's shores—and in general, fish are just numerous enough to satisfy local markets. The only three common big fish which can be taken on line are the baraccuda, the horse mackerel and the banito. Very big sting rays are seen from time to time, and large sawfish are sometimes caught in fishermen's nets about the deltas—unfortunately for the fishermen, whose nets are thereby damaged.

Perhaps enough has been said to indicate the tremendous wealth of Sarawak's animal and plant life. Numerous other illustrations of this wealth can be produced from *molluscs* (shells), *crustaceans* (crabs, etc.), *arthropods* (spiders, etc.) and *nematodes* (worms). In the vertebrate section of spineless or boneless animals, the variety of forms is immense; Dr. B. M. Hobby, M.A., D. Phil., F.R.E.S., of the Department of Entomology in Oxford, who accompanied the Oxford University Expedition to Sarawak in 1932, has continued to write descriptive papers on specialised groups of insects ever since, and will himself be the first to admit that he only has a fractional knowledge of the insect fauna of Sarawak.

Sarawak also teems with beautiful flies, loveliest of all being the Rajah Brooke's bird-wing which features on Sarawak stamps, though with considerable inaccuracy.

As essential background, of course, to all the animal life, the fauna of this vivid territory, is the plant life, the flora. This is a little less varied, but even so one of the most prolific and fertile. There are some very distinct vegetation forms which in turn largely determine the fauna living within them. Above about 3,000 feet on the numerous mountains there is low vegetation draped with mosses with its own special fauna and flora—the "moss forest habitat." In the lowlands, the jungle grows to great heights and where it has not been felled produces several different levels of animal and plant life. This virgin jungle, with its canopy, sub-canopy, intermediate and ground level fauna and flora, is the most widespread and the richest environment for the life of Borneo. Big sections of Sarawak are entirely given up to virgin jungle, uninhabited except by the occasional visits of nomadic Punans.

Where man has had his influence there is secondary jungle, gradually reverting to primary jungle over many years and distinguished by the lack of great trees. And on the coastal plain the swamp forests, large areas of mangrove and nipah palm, and along the sand fringes casuarina; as with the animals so with the plants, abundance is the descriptive word.

To the hasty eye, it all looks rather dull, uniform and unexciting. There are no towering banks of orchids or great clutching plants.

There is the dark green background, the damp, and the decay which is the essence of equatorial jungle. But to those who are prepared to take a second, slower look, to sit around patiently, to be bitten by leeches, wonders and beauties will presently reveal themselves. For in Sarawak are some of the world's most glorious orchids such as the *arachnis grandiflora*, not obvious but easily found upon the epiphytic trees, which are their hosts. The most weird is perhaps the *rafflesia*, a staggering yellow and red blossom which comes straight out of the ground as a jungle flower big enough to have your bath in.

But we must draw the line somewhere. The only place is within the jungle itself. A few pages can never describe the mystery of this complexity; ugliness, beauty, discomfort and peace.

Chapter XX

ADMINISTRATION

Sarawak is divided for administrative purposes into five Divisions, each in charge of a Resident. Each Division is sub-divided into a number of Districts, administered by District Officers, and most of the Districts into smaller areas or sub-districts each in charge of a member of the Native Officers Service. As far as is practicable, Government attempts to free Residents and District Officers from as much office work as is possible in order that they may tour their areas and maintain the close contact with the people which has always been the keynote of administration.

The Divisions may be summarised as follows:—

The First Division, with headquarters at Kuching.

The Second Division, with headquarters at Simanggang.

The Third Division, with headquarters at Sibü.

The Fourth Division, with headquarters at Miri.

The Fifth Division, with headquarters at Limbang.

In addition, the District Officers are advised by District Advisory Councils and sometimes Chinese Advisory Boards set up in each District, whilst Residents have the benefit of the advice of Divisional Advisory Councils which meet at frequent intervals at Divisional Headquarters.

The most important development in administration since the termination of World War II has been the progress made in Local Government. Before the War the Native Administration Order was published as an enabling Ordinance to allow the gradual introduction of the people themselves into the administration of their own affairs. This Order contemplated the setting up of village committees to replace the individual chiefs, but the first experiment on these lines did not get very far owing to the outbreak of war and the impossibility of providing adequate supervision. In 1947 a scheme was drawn up for the development of Local Government through Local Authorities with their own Treasuries, and five such Authorities came into being at the beginning of 1948. The Local Authority Ordinance, 1948, forms the basis for the powers of these Authorities. Their revenues consist of direct taxes, fines and fees, supplemented by a grant from the Central Government calculated according to the number

of tax-payers. At the end of 1952 there were 17 Local Authorities in operation and no less than 240,000 people subject to their jurisdiction. The majority of these Authorities are established on a racial basis, but it has become clear that this basis for the formation of Authorities is unsound and the "Mixed" or inter-racial Authority is the one upon which the Local Government of the future will be patterned, and it is of interest to note that where such an Authority has already been established Local Government is generally in a healthy condition.

The following Local Authorities were in existence at the close of the year:-

- Lundu Local Authority
- Upper Sarawak (Bau) Local Authority
- Upper Sadong (Serian) Local Authority
- Batang Lupar Dayak Local Authority, Simanggang
- Saribas Dayak Local Authority, Betong
- Kalaka Dayak Local Authority, Saratok
- Kalaka Malay Local Authority, Saratok
- Sibu Urban District Council
- Sibu Rural District Council
- Lower Rejang District Sea Dayak Local Authority, Sarikei
- Mukah Mixed Local Authority
- Kanowit Sea Dayak Local Authority
- Kapit District Local Authority
- Baram Local Authority
- Sebauh (Batang Kemana) Local Authority
- Tatau Local Authority
- Limbang District Council

Particular mention must be made of the successful Authorities at Mukah, Limbang and Sibu where the co-operation between the various races included within the jurisdiction of the Authority has been very marked.

In 1941, to commemorate the centenary of Brooke rule in Sarawak, His Highness the Rajah granted a Constitution and, in 1946, when Sarawak became a Colony, by Letters Patent the Supreme Council and Council Negri retained the authority granted to them.

The Constitution grants legislative and financial jurisdiction to the Council Negri, a body consisting of 25 members, 14 of whom are official members appointed from the Sarawak Civil Service and 11 of whom are unofficial members representative of the several peoples dwelling within the country and of their various interests.

The unofficial members are appointed by the Governor in Council and hold office for a period of three years.

In addition to the 25 members there are 14 standing members. The Constitution Ordinance provides that a native of Sarawak, who was a member of Council Negri immediately prior to the enactment of the Ordinance, and who is not a member of the Council appointed under the provisions of the Ordinance, shall nevertheless be deemed to be a member of the Council Negri and shall have the right to attend all meetings of the Council and of speaking and voting therein until he shall die or resign or cease to be a member of the Sarawak Civil Service.

The Council Negri has the power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the country and no public money may be expended or any charge whatsoever made upon the revenues of the country except with the consent of that body.

The Constitution Ordinance also provides for a Supreme Council composed of not less than five members, a majority of whom shall be members of the Sarawak Civil Service, and a majority of whom shall be members of the Council Negri.

All powers conferred upon the Rajah or the Rajah in Council by any written law enacted before the date of operation of the Cession of Sarawak to His Majesty are vested in the Governor in Council. In the exercise of his powers and duties the Governor shall consult with the Supreme Council, except in making appointments to the Supreme Council and in cases

(a) which are of such nature that, in his judgement, Her Majesty would sustain material prejudice by consulting the Supreme Council thereon; or

(b) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgement, too unimportant to require their advice; or

(c) in which the matters to be decided are, in his judgement, too urgent to admit of their advice being given by the time within which it may be necessary for him to act.

Important proposals for revision of the Constitution Ordinance were mentioned by His Excellency the Governor in his speech to Council Negri in December, and reference has been made to them in the chapter entitled *General Review of the Year*—Chapter 1—of this Report.

Chapter XXI

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The standard weights and measures recognised under the Laws of Sarawak are the Imperial yard, the Imperial pound and the Imperial gallon.

Certain local customary weights and measures having the values set out below are also lawful:

1 Tahil	...	...	=	$1\frac{1}{2}$	ozs.
1 Kati (16 tahils)	...		=	$1\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
1 Picul (100 katis)	...		=	$133\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
1 Koyan (40 piculs)			=	$5333\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
1 Chhun	...	...	=	1.19.40	inches.
10 Chhuns	...	...	=	1 Chhek	= $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches.
1 Panchang		...	=	108	stacked cubic feet.

Chapter XXII

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

			FOUNDED
<i>Sarawak Tribune</i> , Kuching (daily-English) ...	...	...	1945
<i>Chinese Daily News</i> , Kuching (Chinese) ...	...	...	1945
<i>Sarawak Vanguard</i> , Kuching (daily-Chinese). ...	...	...	1952
<i>Ta Tung Daily News</i> , Sibü (Chinese) ...	...	...	1948
<i>Sie Hwa Daily News</i> , Sibü (Chinese) ...	...	...	1952
<i>Current Critic</i> , Kuching (bi-weekly-Chinese) ...	...	...	1946
<i>Utusan Sarawak</i> , Kuching (bi-weekly-Malay) ...	...	...	1949
<i>Pedoman Ra'ayat</i> (monthly-Malay) ...	...	...	1950
<i>Pembrita</i> (monthly-Iban) ...	...	...	1950
<i>Sarawak Gazette</i> (monthly-English) ...	...	...	1870
<i>Co-operation in Sarawak</i> (monthly-English-Malay-Iban)			1952

Chapter XXIII

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

The Colonial Office List

The Sarawak Civil Service List

The Sarawak Government Gazette (twice monthly)

Proceedings of Council Negri (twice yearly)

Sarawak Museum Journal

Report of the Borneo Salaries Commission, (1947)

Handbook of Sarawak (1949)

Annual Reports of the Geological Survey Department (1949, 1950, 1951)

The Natural Resources of Sarawak (Second Edition, 1952)

BOOKS

The Expedition to Borneo of H.M.S. Dido for the Suppression of Piracy (containing extracts from the journals of Sir James Brooke, the first Rajah)—Captain H. Keppel, R.N. (1846)

Low's Sarawak—Hugh Low (1848)

Rajah Brooke's Journals (the first Rajah)—Captain Mundy R.N. (1848)

Life in the Forests of the Far East—Spencer St. John (1863)

Ten Years in Sarawak—Sir Charles Brooke (the second Rajah) (1866)

The Rajah of Sarawak (the first Rajah)—Jacob (1876)

Natives of Sarawak and British North Borneo—Ling Roth (1896)

The Life of Sir James Brooke—Spencer St. John (1899)

Sarawak under its Two White Rajahs—S. Baring-Gould and C.A. Bampfylde (1909)

Seventeen Years among the Sea Dayaks of Borneo—Gomes (1911)

The Pagan Tribes of Borneo—Hose and McDougall (1912)

My Life in Sarawak—Margaret, Ranee of Sarawak (1913)

Borneo, the Land of River and Palm—Eda Green (1919)

- Sarawak* (a handbook written for the Malaya-Borneo Exhibition, Singapore, 1922)—Sylvia, Ranee of Sarawak
- Letters from Sarawak*—Harriette McDougall, wife of Francis McDougall, first Bishop of Labuan (1924)
- Rajah Brooke and Baroness Burdett-Coutts (Letters)*—Owen Rutter (1935)
- The Three White Rajahs*—Sylvia, Ranee of Sarawak (1939)
- A Naturalist in Sarawak*—E. Banks (Kuching Press, 1949)
- Bornean Mammals*—E. Banks (Kuching Press, 1949)

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES—SARAWAK ALLOCATION.

Scheme number	Title of Scheme	Total Grant	Actual expenditure to 31.12.51.	Estimated expenditure in 1952.	Estimated expenditure 1953.	
D. 816 & D. 816A	Agricultural Soil Survey ...	\$ 128,800	\$ 90,280	\$ 23,992	\$ —	
D. 826	Rubber Industry-Improvement of Cultivation of Cash Crops ...	83,228	35,785	27,497	6,400	
D. 954	Visit of Malayan Irrigation Engineer ...	128,000	63,833	27,847	12,000	
D. 963	Mechanical Cultivation ...	2,571	1,934	—	—	Completed in 1949.
D. 973 & D. 973A	Mechanical Cultivation ...	136,140	83,074	—	—	Completed in 1951.
D. 1208 & D. 1208A-B	Rice Cultivation—Paya Megok ...	569,908	248,061	77,099	63,378	
D. 1424	Cocoa Development ..	17,950	7,874	2,665	2,400	
D. 1519	Dept. of Agri. Staff Training School ...	100,000	82,864	17,136	—	Completed in 1952.
D. 1664	Farm Mechanisation ...	163,500	8,481	74,999	50,000	Represents 50% of total expenditure up to \$63,871 eligible for reimbursement from C.D. & W. funds when a formal scheme is approved.
	Rice Cultivation—Niah-Sibuti ..	65,871	—	26,039	32,800	
D. 830	Travelling Dispensaries ..	670,000	472,339	187,570	—	Part of Main Scheme.
D. 1828	Central Mental Hospital ..	488,571	—	—	488,571	
D. 838	Rural Improvement School, Kanowit ..	275,194	233,659	16,039	—	Scheme expired 30.4.52.
D. 839 & D. 839A	Batu Lintang Teachers' Training Centre and School ...	901,373	461,061	180,006	59,356	
D. 1875	Grants for Science Laboratories ...	150,000	—	—	150,000	

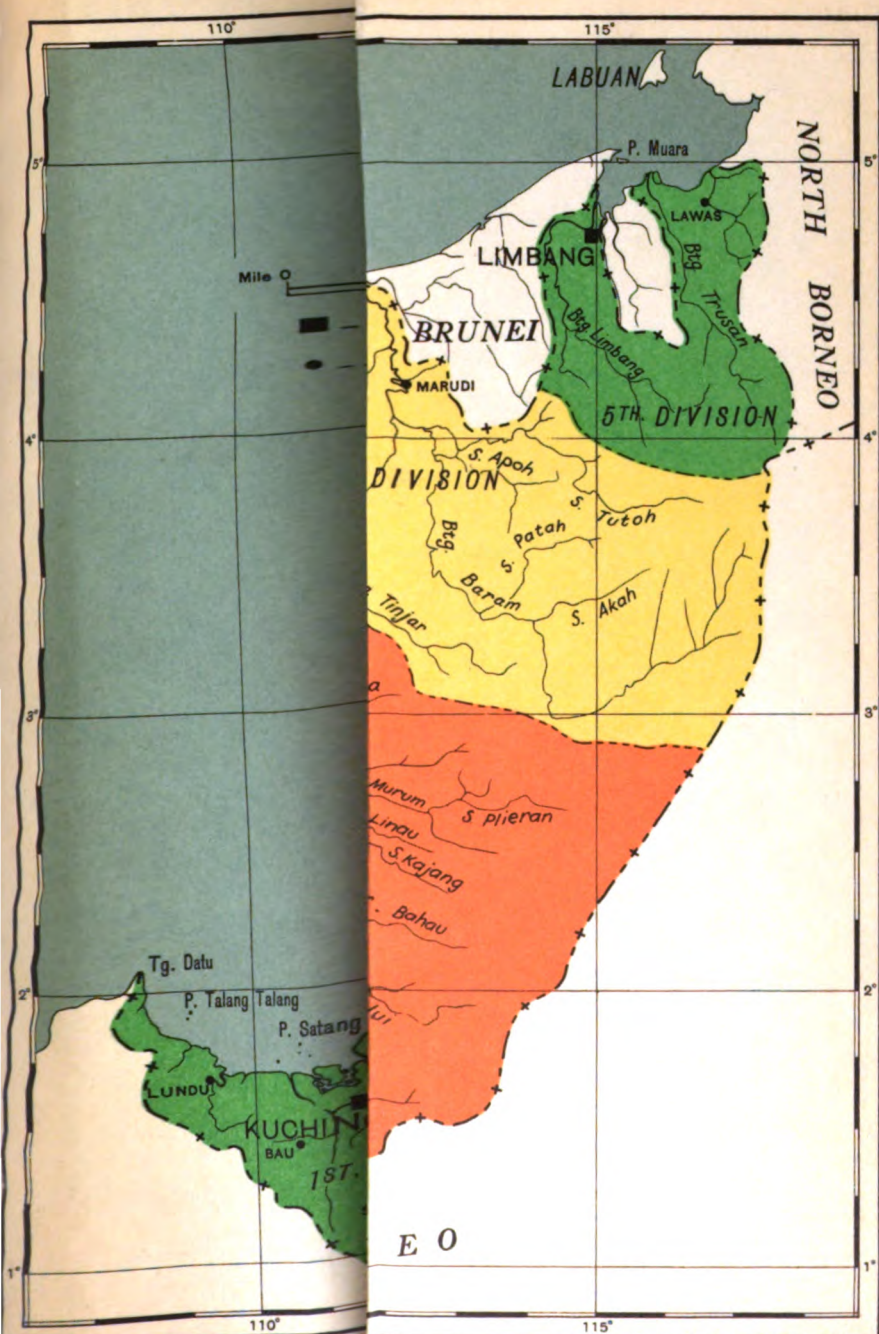
D. 1871	Grants for Domestic Science Rooms	80,000	—	80,000	Expenditure incurred in United Kingdom. Completed in 1951.
D. 821	Training of Fishery Survey Officer	3,428	—	—	—
D. 837 & D. 837A	Fisheries Survey	86,786	80,922	—	—
D. 1120	Forestry Development	392,694	65,213	71,497	77,876
D. 1273	Port Development	79,971	59,732	15,827	—
D. 1430 & D. 1430A	Buildings (Senior Service Quarters)	226,011	80,273	145,738	—
D. 1542 & D. 1542A	Sibu Airfield	180,000	155,213	24,787	—
D. 913A-B	Kuching Airfield (Supplementary)	291,916	193,793	98,123	—
D. 944	Secondary Roads & Telecommunication	102,171	98,911	—	Completed in 1950.
D. 1076 & A-D	Communication—Roads :—				
(1)	(a) Reconstruction of 29½ Miles Kuching-Serian Road (D. 1076, D. 1076A & D. 1076B)	1,512,300	245,797	800,000	466,503
	(b) Survey Serian-Simanggang Road (D. 1076 & D. 1076B)	120,000	120,000	—	—
	(c) Test Boring for Bridges Serian-Simanggang Road (D. 1076B)	15,000	8,982	9,905	—
(2)	Reconstruction of 18 Bridges and Repairs to 11 Bridges on the Upper Sarawak Area (D. 1076)	51,294	50,573	—	—
	<i>Carried forward</i>	7,022,677	2,952,082	1,827,426	1,489,284

Title of Scheme.	Total estimated cost of Scheme.	Actual expenditure to 31.12.51.	Estimated expenditure in 1952.	Estimated expenditure 1953.	Balance of Scheme.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
AGRICULTURE					
Fertiliser Manufacture experiments	5,000	2,923	643	1,434	—
Niah/Sibuti Rice Cultivation ...	327,222	879	25,820	32,800	267,723
Development of Farm Mechanisation	302,340	9,076	117,245	121,287	54,732
Rice Cultivation—Paya Megok	139,074	—	33,883	27,853	77,338
Animal Husbandry ...	50,000	—	13,000	15,000	22,000
	[823,636]	[12,878]	[190,591]	[198,374]	[421,793]
BROADCASTING	427,741	—	—	427,741	—
BUILDINGS	1,988,500	159,040	327,060	1,102,400	400,000
CIVIL AVIATION	156,000	38,740	105,760	11,500	—
EDUCATION					
Rural Improvement School, Kanowit	538,320	31,957	179,812	171,584	154,967
Batu Lintang Training Centre	935,000	—	—	163,107	771,893
Overseas Scholarships	468,980	—	34,000	80,700	354,280
Production of Vernacular Literature	40,000	—	900	—	39,100
	[1,982,300]	[31,957]	[214,712]	[415,391]	[1,320,210]
FISHERIES	146,720	—	36,401	41,950	68,369
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY	360,000	—	67,500	90,000	202,500
MEDICAL					
Health Centre	250,000	—	20,000	250,000	—
Extension of T. B. facilities	210,000	—	5,000	55,000	150,000
Anti-T.B. Campaign	75,000	—	7,000	34,000	34,000
Travelling Dispensaries	1,036,573	—	—	221,723	814,850
Leper Settlement	185,000	30,986	93,900	60,114	—
	[1,786,573]	[30,986]	[125,900]	[630,837]	[998,850]

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES		135,000	—	—	34,916	100,084
PORTS DEVELOPMENT						
Gunong Ayer	...	1,000,000	—	—	600,000	400,000
Sibu	...	1,900,000	—	100,000	1,000,000	800,000
		[2,900,000]		[100,000]	[1,600,000]	[1,200,000]
ROADS, BRIDGES & WHARVES						
Road Reconstruction Programme	...	11,485,000	—	799,440	4,469,600	6,215,960
Oil Storage Depot, Bukit Biawak	...	184,900	—	80,000	104,900	—
Oil Storage, Sungei Merah	...	30,000	27,359	2,641	—	—
Serian/Simbang Road	...	6,380,000	—	67,000	2,000,000	4,313,000
Survey Serian/Simbang Road	...	230,000	936	229,064	—	—
Access Road to Kuching airport	...	66,918	66,918	—	—	—
		[18,376,818]	[95,213]	[1,178,145]	[6,574,500]	[10,528,960]
TELECOMMUNICATIONS						
TOWN DEVELOPMENT		7,083,520	5,878	74,840	4,439,140	2,563,662
Limbang Bazaar	...	89,000	—	33,000	56,000	—
Berkenu Bazaar	...	86,000	—	24,000	62,000	—
Simanggang Bazaar	...	148,500	—	—	148,500	—
		[323,500]		[57,000]	[266,500]	
WATER SUPPLIES						
Batu Kitang Scheme	...	3,300,000	—	—	2,000,000	1,300,000
Sungei China pipeline	...	307,000	—	—	307,000	—
Simunjan	...	65,000	—	—	65,000	—
Sarikei	...	400,000	—	1,000	300,000	99,000
Bau	...	60,000	2,000	58,000	—	—
Miri	...	240,000	—	—	150,000	90,000
		[4,372,000]	[2,000]	[59,000]	[2,822,000]	[1,489,000]
WATERWAYS						
Sungei Kut Canal	...	250,000	—	15,000	150,000	85,000
DEVELOPMENT STAFF						
SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH		600,000	—	6,400	401,486	192,114
		7,903	6,657	715	—	531
Totals	\$	41,720,211	383,349	2,559,024	19,206,735	19,571,103

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